



United Way of Champaign County

## 2015 Community Report

Closing the Gap in Champaign County:

# A CALL TO ACTION



LIVE UNITED



## FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

In 2011 United Way of Champaign County released our first Community Report. The report exceeded our expectations in many ways. Most importantly, it started a data-driven conversation around the challenges that people face each and every day here in our county:

- » The reality of hunger and homelessness.
- » The state of our children's education.
- » Barriers to physical and mental health services.
- » Challenges with employment.

Over the past five years, there have been many success stories. The data showed affordable dental care was a big obstacle, so we worked with our community partners to open a dental clinic so those without insurance can receive the care they need. The data showed housing affordability and family homelessness was a rising need, so we brought together a community collaboration to create the Emergency Shelter for Families. The data showed many kids across our community weren't prepared for kindergarten, so we took a leadership role with CU Cradle to Career to supplement our existing work with kindergarten readiness. The 2015 report shows that we've made great strides in these areas.

There is still much work to be done.

At United Way we believe our community is strongest when we come together around common goals. The Community Report highlights the challenges we still face as a community. We hope you will join us in embracing these challenges. Let's work together to create positive change and lasting impact in our community.

**Great things happen when we Live United!**



Brian Holding  
Chair, Board of Directors  
United Way of Champaign County

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The 2015 Community Report documents critical concerns in Champaign County. This document is a follow-up to United Way of Champaign County's first community report, released in 2011. This current edition aims to update the status of needs set forth in 2011, and identify the priority of challenges going forward. To complete the 2015 Community Report, we drew on a variety of research methods, from desk research to interviews and surveys with community members, service users, and service providers.

**The data compiled in this report reveals the following about social needs in Champaign County:**

### Basic Needs

Basic needs are the fundamental needs that a family or individuals require in order to lead a functioning life. The issue of access to basic needs is assessed in terms of three components: poverty, self-sufficiency, and food insecurity. Champaign County's poverty rate is 20.5% and the child poverty rate is 22.3%, both of which are above the state averages. Compared to other counties in Illinois, Champaign remains one of the most impoverished.

### Housing and Homelessness

Maintaining or obtaining affordable housing is a challenge that residents in this community face. In Champaign County, an individual earning minimum wage would have to work 73 hours a week to afford a two-bedroom apartment and utilities. Current figures from the 2013-2014 school year confirm that there were 555 homeless school-age children that year.

### Family Support and Child Care

Family support and child care refer to resources and networks available in the community to help support families, particularly those with children. As defined in this report, the components of family support and child care are: child care availability, child care costs, and domestic violence support.

### Education

Education refers to the academic, behavioral, and social development of children up to age eighteen. In this report, education encompasses four key components: kindergarten readiness, grade level achievement, free or reduced lunch, and educational attainment.

### Health and Well-Being

Health and wellbeing is the preservation and enhancement of physical health. Measurements of health and wellbeing include: healthcare access, dental, prenatal care, teen pregnancy and factors affecting health.

### Mental Health Services

Mental health services refers to a wide range of treatments and supports for community members. Mental health conditions can affect anyone, anywhere, at anytime. The severe lack of mental health services is one of the most cited needs by service providers. Unmet needs are reflected by ongoing wait lists of a year or more for counseling, medical, and case management services.

### Employment and the Economy

Although economic recovery has ensued following the 2008 financial downturn, legacies of the recession continue to affect the local job market and economy. Numerous interviewees cited the need for additional job training and gainful employment opportunities. One of the greatest concerns is that wages are not keeping up with the rising cost of living. The two key components include: unemployment and occupations.

## Going Forward

Closing the gap on these critical social needs requires the help of all members of Champaign County, from social service agencies, the business community, higher education, community members, and United Way. The final sections of the 2015 Community Report set forth recommendations on how we can all contribute to closing the gap. These recommendations include the following:

### Community Members

- » **Give.** Become an independent donor to United Way or other charitable organizations. Encourage your workplace to become involved in charitable workplace campaigns.
- » **Advocate.** Lobby your representatives and spread knowledge within your social networks about the key gaps affecting Champaign County.
- » **Volunteer.** Give just a few hours of your time each month, or even each year, to local causes. Help out at events such as a charitable 5K, lend a hand to local agencies, or assist in coordinating a volunteer event through your workplace. These are all opportunities that give back and make you feel great.

### Social Service Agencies

- » Track and document programmatic outcomes by using evidence-based tools, and convey these to funders, staff, and peer agencies.
- » Explore new ways to collaborate and share data and resources with other service providers.
- » Train your staff on using key evaluation techniques and tools, such as the logic model, and integrate those tools into your programmatic efforts.

### United Way of Champaign County

- » Continually evaluate community challenges.
- » Maintain and grow key collaborations to advance Education, Income and Health.
- » Within Education, Income and Health, focus extra efforts on kindergarten readiness, mental health services and child homelessness.
- » Develop and grow innovative new ways for the entire community to GIVE, ADVOCATE and VOLUNTEER.

Working together as a community, we can help close the gaps in Champaign County.

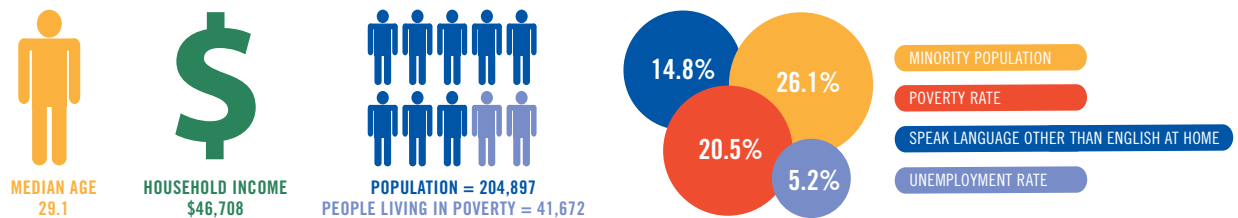
## FRAMING THE 2015 COMMUNITY REPORT

In 2011, United Way of Champaign County (UWCC) published its inaugural UWCC Community Report. Drawing from interviews with key stakeholders, this document set forth critical concerns of the quality of life of Champaign County residents, illustrating the state of the community as lived in 2011. Ultimately, the report set forth seven fundamental issues deemed of high concern: basic needs, housing and homelessness, family support and child care, education, access to health care, mental health services, and employment and the economy.

Since the release of the 2011 Community Report, Champaign County has undergone various changes including the economic recovery in the wake of the 2008-2012 recession. Yet despite overall recovery, certain populations in our community remain economically vulnerable. Devastation caused by the 2013 Gifford tornado highlighted the importance of emergency relief services in our area and illustrated how dedicated our community members are to helping one another in times of need. Continued resettlement of immigrants and refugees from across the world has demonstrated that Champaign County is an increasingly diversified community as well as one that faces new social and linguistic challenges. Introduction of the Affordable Care Act opened the door to healthcare coverage for various groups in Champaign County. However, implementing has not been without hurdles.

Given these shifts and events, the 2015 Community Report seeks to update the status on the seven fundamental issues in Champaign County. The 2015 Community updates the preceding report by presenting updated statistics and figures on those seven issues. It should be noted that the most current statistics are used throughout this report. However, those statistics are not always from the present year, given that the most recently available data is oftentimes one to several years old.

### CHAMPAIGN COUNTY AT A GLANCE



Sources: Department of Labor Statistics, 2014.; Social Impact Research Center, 2013.; US Census Bureau, 2012, 2013, 2014.

## METHODOLOGY: WHERE DID OUR DATA COME FROM?

The United Way of Champaign County research team used a variety of sources to inform this report. These sources consist of original research and various secondary sources.

The secondary sources employed in this report include:

- » Government reports, including US Census data and state and local government sources
- » State and local not-for-profit agencies
- » University of Illinois reports and studies
- » Evidence-based practice research reports

Our original research with community members includes:

- » Surveys with staff and volunteers from local social service agencies
- » Surveys with community members conducted at the Urbana Saturday Market
- » Telephone and in-person interviews with staff and board members from local agencies
- » Follow-up surveys with community stakeholders who participated in the 2011 Community Report

## HOW FAR WE'VE COME: THE STATE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES TODAY

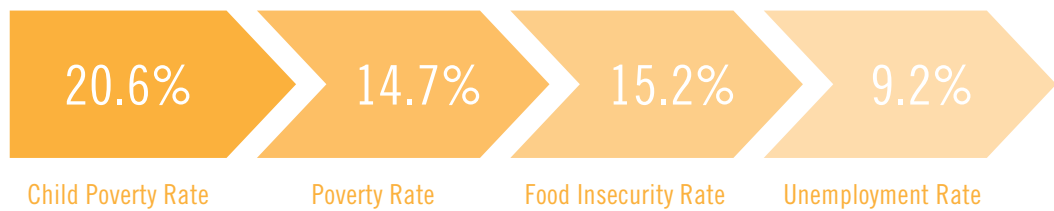
### Overview

This section breaks down the state of the seven fundamental areas of concern set forth in 2011, and assesses how those issues fare today, according to the most recent data. Impacts on well-being for Champaign County residents are discussed for each criteria.

HOW DOES  
CHAMPAIGN  
COUNTY  
FARE TODAY?

### WELL-BEING INDICATOR

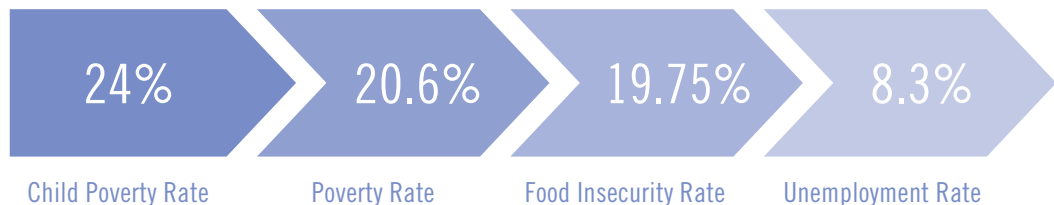
#### Illinois



#### Champaign County, 2015



#### Champaign County, 2011



Source: Social Action Research Center, 2013.

Over the last 4 years, what social needs have improved?

“Information sharing. 2-1-1 has helped.” ~ Courage Connection employee

# 1 | Basic Needs

## POVERTY

MOST IMPOVERISHED COUNTIES			
Poverty Rank	County	Poverty Rate	Percent Change from 2011
1	Alexander County	32.9%	-3.50%
2	Jackson County	29.4%	1.60%
3	Pulaski County	24.4%	1.20%
4	Coles County	22.9%	0.10%
5	McDonough County	22.3%	1%
6	Macon County	21.8%	1.3%
7	Pope County	21.7%	-0.40%
8	Saline County	21.0%	-2.40%
9	Hardin County	20.7%	-1.20%
10	Champaign County	20.5%	-2.90%

### What it is:

In 2013, Champaign County is ranked as the 10th most impoverished County in the State, the county's ranking in 2011 was third.

### What it tells us:

Although Champaign County's ranking among other counties has improved since 2011, our actual number of residents living in poverty has grown by roughly 2,500 people. The state has identified four indicators of negative condition trends that impact a community's well-being: poverty, unemployment, teen births, and low graduation rates. Champaign County is among 45 other counties on the poverty watch or warning list.

### Why it matters:

Champaign County has more people living in poverty now than in 2011, despite improvement in ranking. Breaking the patterns of behavior, societal trends and institutional guidelines that perpetuate poverty is a community wide effort.

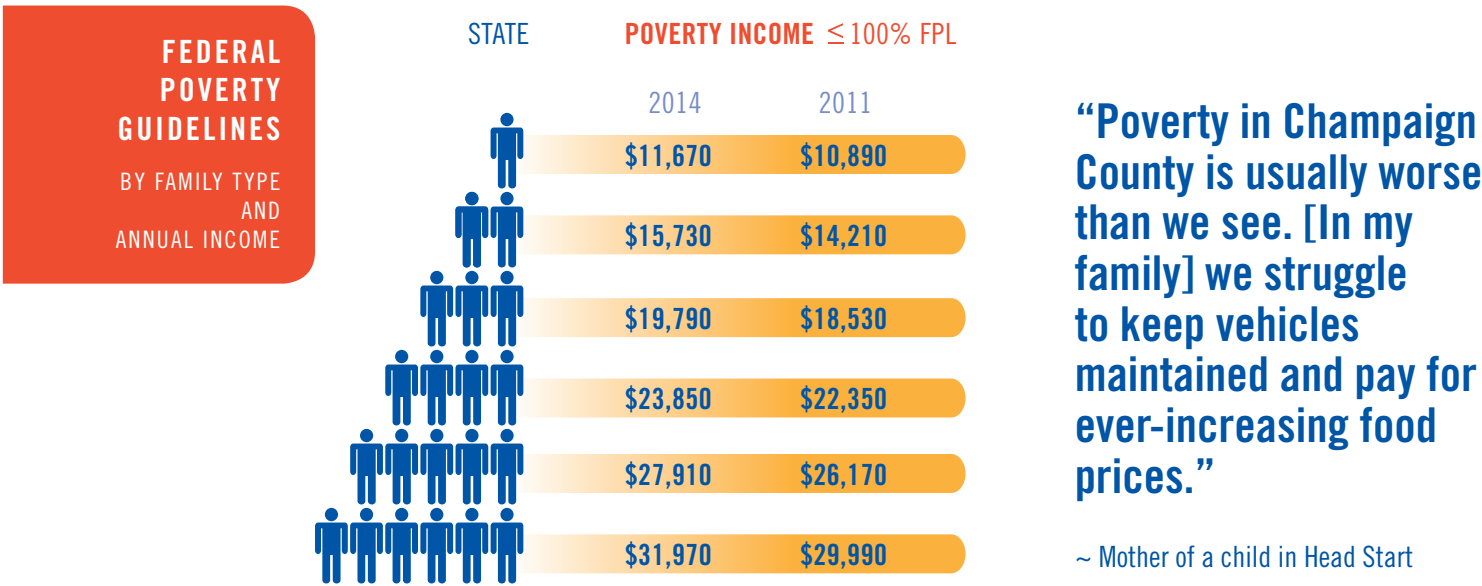
**“Poverty is widespread but largely invisible to the larger community.”**

~ University of Illinois student



### What it is:

The percentage of the population whose income registers at or below of the federal poverty level (FPL). In 2014, 20.5% of residents living in Champaign County were living in poverty, which ranks higher than the state average of 14.7%.



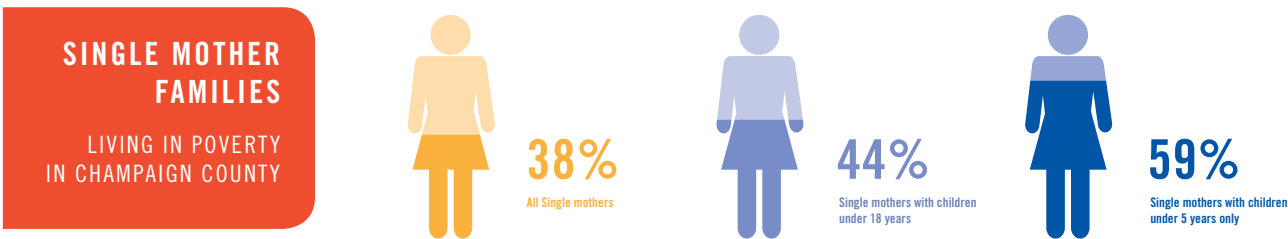
Sources: Social Impact Research Center, 2013.; US Census Bureau, 2012 & 2013

### What it tells us:

In Champaign County we have an estimated population of 204,897 of which 41,670 are living in poverty—almost 2500 more people than in 2011 (estimated population of 190,260 in 2011). Among all family types, single-parent households, including predominantly single female parents with young children under five years old, are the most vulnerable to living in poverty. In fact, nearly 60% of single parents with young children live in poverty—making them almost ten times more likely to live in poverty. Champaign County’s current child poverty rate registers at 22.3%, which is nearly 2% higher than the state average.

### Why it matters:

Federal guidelines for poverty are extremely low, therefore, families that meet or fall below poverty guidelines are in need of additional services to maintain the most basic needs for themselves and their children. Every day, thousands of children are living in poverty. When basic needs for children such as food, shelter, and medical care are not met, it impacts the child’s ability to function on daily tasks such as social development and academic success. These children are also at a higher risk to experience abuse and neglect. In addition, they are more likely to engage in risky behavior that negatively effects their mental health and physical well-being. Assistance requests have grown significantly while the infrastructure to support people living in poverty has experienced tremendous strain due to substantial cuts in funding.



Source: US Census Bureau, 2012

# SELF-SUFFICIENCY

## What it is:

A family or individual's ability to pay for their basic costs of living—such as food, housing, childcare, and transportation—without public or private assistance. Self-sufficiency rates vary with household size and composition, generally increasing with the number of family members.

## What it tells us:

Today, a single parent with two children must earn \$23.24 per hour full-time to achieve self-sufficiency in Champaign County. Currently, minimum wage, which many low-income jobs pay, is \$8.25 per hour in Illinois. In households with two adults and three children, adults must earn \$20.86 per hour full-time. This is assuming that one parent provides childcare (denoted by childcare for two-parent households registering at \$0). However, the reality is that in many two-parent households, both parents work; thus they must pay for childcare, which drives household costs up even more.

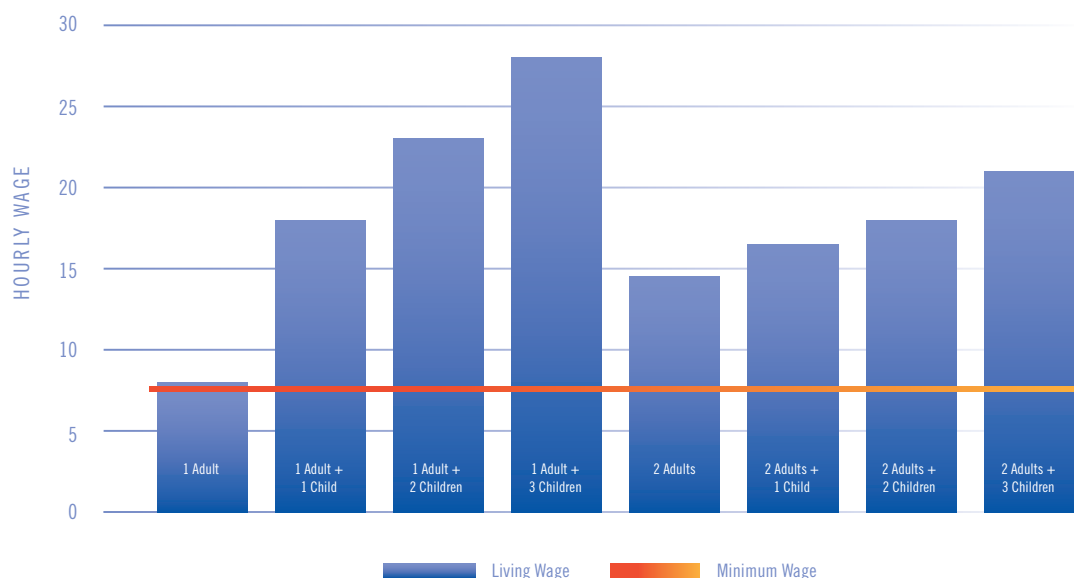
## Why it matters:

Families with adults working minimum-wage jobs experience the most difficulty in establishing self-sufficiency. Given that the minimum wage is \$8.25 per hour, a single parent with two children would have to work three full-time minimum-wage jobs to meet their family's basic needs. Most single parents work multiple part-time jobs with irregular schedules, which increases the need for supportive services like childcare and transportation. It is also safe to assume workers earning minimum wage do not have access to benefits such as health care or paid sick leave and/or time off that provide a safety net for unexpected emergencies. Increasing availability to education and occupational training paired with accessible and affordable supportive services are needed to increase self-sufficiency.

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY TYPICAL FAMILY EXPENSES AND THE MINIMUM SELF-SUFFICIENCY WAGE

Monthly Expenses	1 Adult	1 Adult, 1 Child	1 Adult, 2 Children	1 Adult, 3 Children	2 Adults	2 Adults, 1 Child	2 Adults, 2 Children	2 Adults, 3 Children
Food	\$242	\$357	\$536	\$749	\$444	\$553	\$713	\$904
Child Care	\$0	\$550	\$900	\$1,250	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Medical	\$135	\$408	\$431	\$411	\$287	\$398	\$375	\$384
Housing	\$493	\$705	\$705	\$885	\$599	\$705	\$705	\$885
Transportation	\$306	\$595	\$686	\$736	\$595	\$686	\$736	\$748
Other	\$66	\$163	\$213	\$277	\$120	\$153	\$174	\$198
Annual taxes	\$2,365	\$5,303	\$6,639	\$8,239	\$3,911	\$4,780	\$5,170	\$5,966
Monthly self-sufficiency wage after taxes	\$1,242	\$2,778	\$3,471	\$4,308	\$2,045	\$2,495	\$2,703	\$3,119
Annual self-sufficiency wage after taxes	\$14,904	\$33,336	\$41,652	\$51,696	\$24,540	\$29,940	\$32,436	\$37,428

## HOW MUCH FAMILIES MUST EARN TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT IN CHAMPAIGN COUNTY



Source: Glasmeier, 2014.

## FOOD INSECURITY

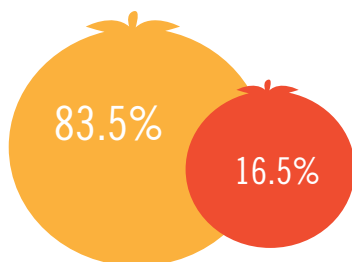
### What it is:

The limitation of an individual or family from accessing the adequate amount of nutritional, safe food needed to sustain a healthy life.

### What it tells us:

According to the most recent figure, 16.5% of Champaign County residents or about 33,460 people are food insecure. Today about 11% of Champaign County residents receive SNAP (often referred to as food stamps), an increase of 1% since 2011. Almost 85% of families' currently receiving SNAP benefits have at least one family member who is currently working, but earn wages too low to cover basic food needs.

## FOOD SECURITY IN CHAMPAIGN COUNTY



% OF POPULATION THAT IS FOOD SECURE

% OF POPULATION THAT IS FOOD INSECURE

Sources: Social Impact Research Center, 2013; Gundersen et. al, 2012.

### Why it matters:

Good overall health is reliant on a steady diet of vital nutrients daily. The stress of food insecurity is known to lead to severe mental and physical health complications, such as malnutrition, depression, anxiety, and aggression, as well as chronic illnesses, such as hypertension, and cardiovascular risk. Children in particular may suffer from social, behavioral, and developmental complications due to food insecurity, including interrupted social skills development. Others at high-risk due to food insecurity include the elderly, and pregnant and nursing women.

## 2 | Housing and Homelessness

### HOMELESSNESS

#### What it means:

A chronic or temporary inability to maintain or obtain secure housing.

#### What it tells us:

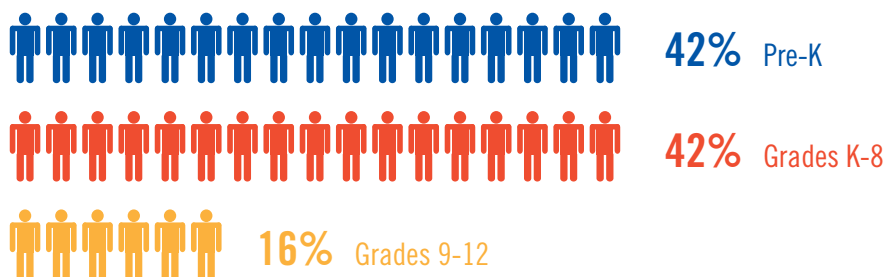
Homelessness is a growing challenge in Champaign County, reaching across a number of groups and populations. Among one of the most pressing concerns: in Champaign County many of those that are homeless are families and children. According to the Champaign-Ford Regional Office of Education, 697 school-aged children were registered as homeless in Champaign County in the 2014 – 2015 school year. This number is up from the 2011 report, which estimated that 300 children were homeless in the county.

Over the past 5 years, child homelessness in Champaign County has increased an estimated 132%. As defined by the McKinney-Vento Act, homeless children and youth are those who lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence. This includes children who are living in motels, shelters, friend's couches, cars, public places and more.

**“My most important challenge is trying to find a stable place to stay.”**

~ Mother at a community women's shelter

#### AGE OF HOMELESS YOUTH ACROSS ILLINOIS



Source: National Center on Family Homelessness, 2012.

#### Why it matters:

Homelessness is deeply disruptive to individuals' and families' social, familial, and occupational networks. Lack of stable housing almost always makes it impossible to function productively in society and maintain an overall sense of wellbeing. Children are among the most vulnerable to the negative effects of homelessness. Displacement or frequent moving can result in 4 to 6 months of education lost. Systems of support in Champaign County that provide services for the homeless are strained and have specific eligibility and guidelines regarding populations served. Services are provided for many individuals, however, it is not currently possible for a family consisting of two parents and children to remain intact in an existing shelter.

See the next chapter for detailed information on how United Way of Champaign County is working to close the gap in child homelessness in our community.

# HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

## What it is:

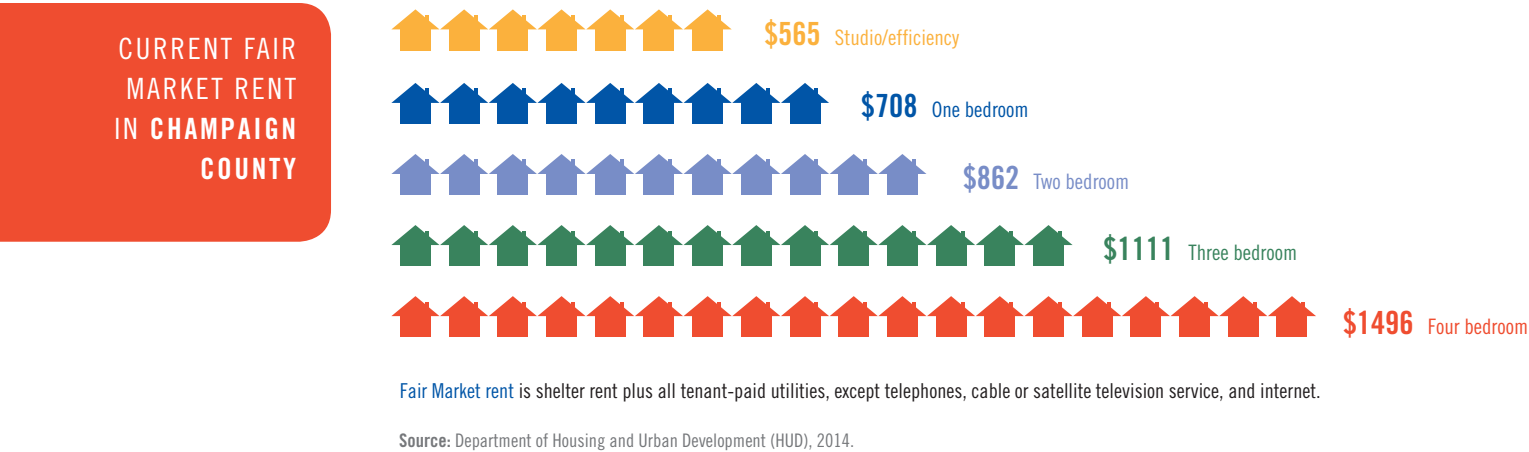
Housing affordability refers to the costs renters and homeowners incur. The term *rent burden* is often used, which means that over 50% of a household’s monthly income is allocated towards housing costs.

## What it tells us:

As of 2014, the local assessed market value or fair market rent for rent of a two-bedroom residence in Champaign County is \$862 per month. However, an employee earning the mean wage in our community can afford only \$487 per month. An individual making minimum wage would have to work 73 hours a week to afford a two-bedroom apartment and utilities. Across Champaign County, renters make up half of all households; one-third of these households are severely rent-burdened.

“The greatest challenge facing Champaign County?  
Affordable housing! We had 555 homeless children  
registered during the 2013-2014 academic year.”

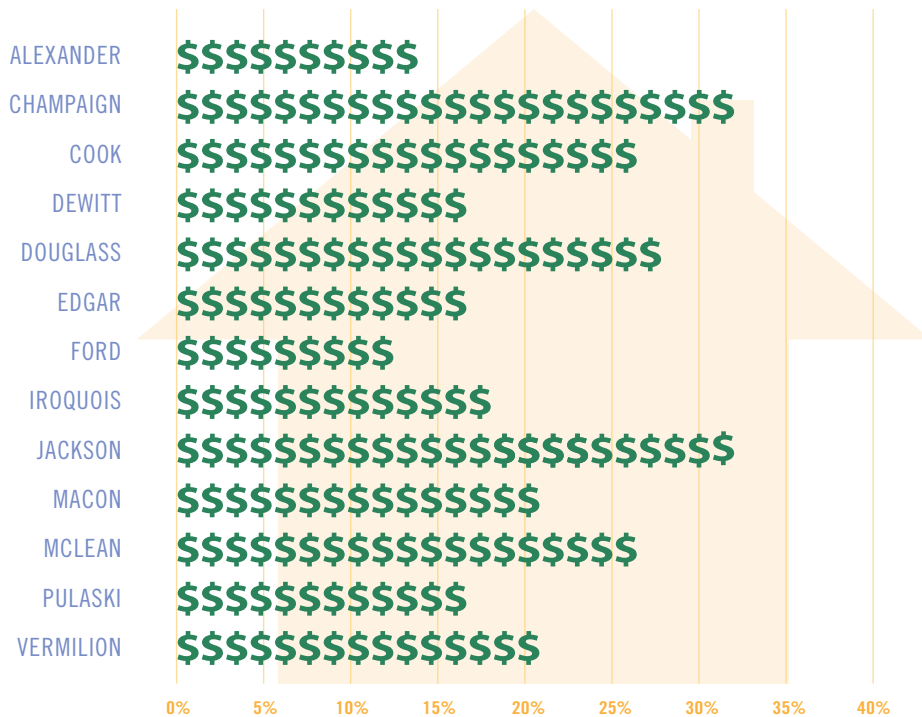
~ Regional Office of Education employee



“There is a shortage of affordable single family homes in this  
community. You would be shocked by some of the conditions  
that people have to live in. Mold, run-down fixtures... Many  
landlords aren’t fixing problems, and people aren’t reporting  
problems to authorities because they’re afraid of being put out.  
They have nowhere else to go.”

~ Father and Promise Healthcare patient

# SEVERELY RENT-BURDENED HOUSEHOLDS BY COUNTY



Source: Social Impact Research Center, 2014.

## Why it matters:

In our community, many families and individuals are forced to spend a disproportionately high percentage of their income on housing. As a result, they are left with less money to pay for food, clothing, transportation, medical care, and other basic needs. Families then face the dilemma of choosing the most urgent household necessity to purchase on a given month. It is unlikely that these families are ever able to become self-sufficient or provide themselves with an essential financial safety net to face unexpected life circumstances such as car repair or health care expense. Reliance on support from social service programs will continue for many.

# 3| Family Support and Child Care

## CHILD CARE AVAILABILITY

**What it is:**

Availability of affordable, safe and quality child care services in Champaign County.

**What it tells us:**

Child care availability remains a concern today, particularly for low-income families. Due to recent state budget cuts, state-funded child care options were reduced. Access to quality childcare is particularly limited in rural and/or lower income areas of Champaign County. People without access to reliable transportation, in particular, encounter further complications when seeking child care.

Over the last 4 years, have any new needs emerged?

“Childcare for homeless individuals.” ~ Not-for-profit employee

COST OF  
CHILD-CARE  
IN CHAMPAIGN  
COUNTY



AGE GROUP	AVERAGE COST OF CENTERS	AVERAGE COST OF FAMILY CHILD CARE
Infants	\$258	\$162
Toddlers	\$251	\$161
2 Year Olds	\$223	\$152
3-5 Year Olds	\$197	\$142
School-Aged Summer/Vacation/Holiday	\$175	\$142

Source: Child Care Resource Center, 2015

**Why it matters:**

Quality childcare fosters family well-being, as well as helps children develop their social, physical, behavioral, intellectual, and psychological skills. Limited access to child care presents serious barriers to families, particularly working and low-income families.

## CHILD CARE COSTS

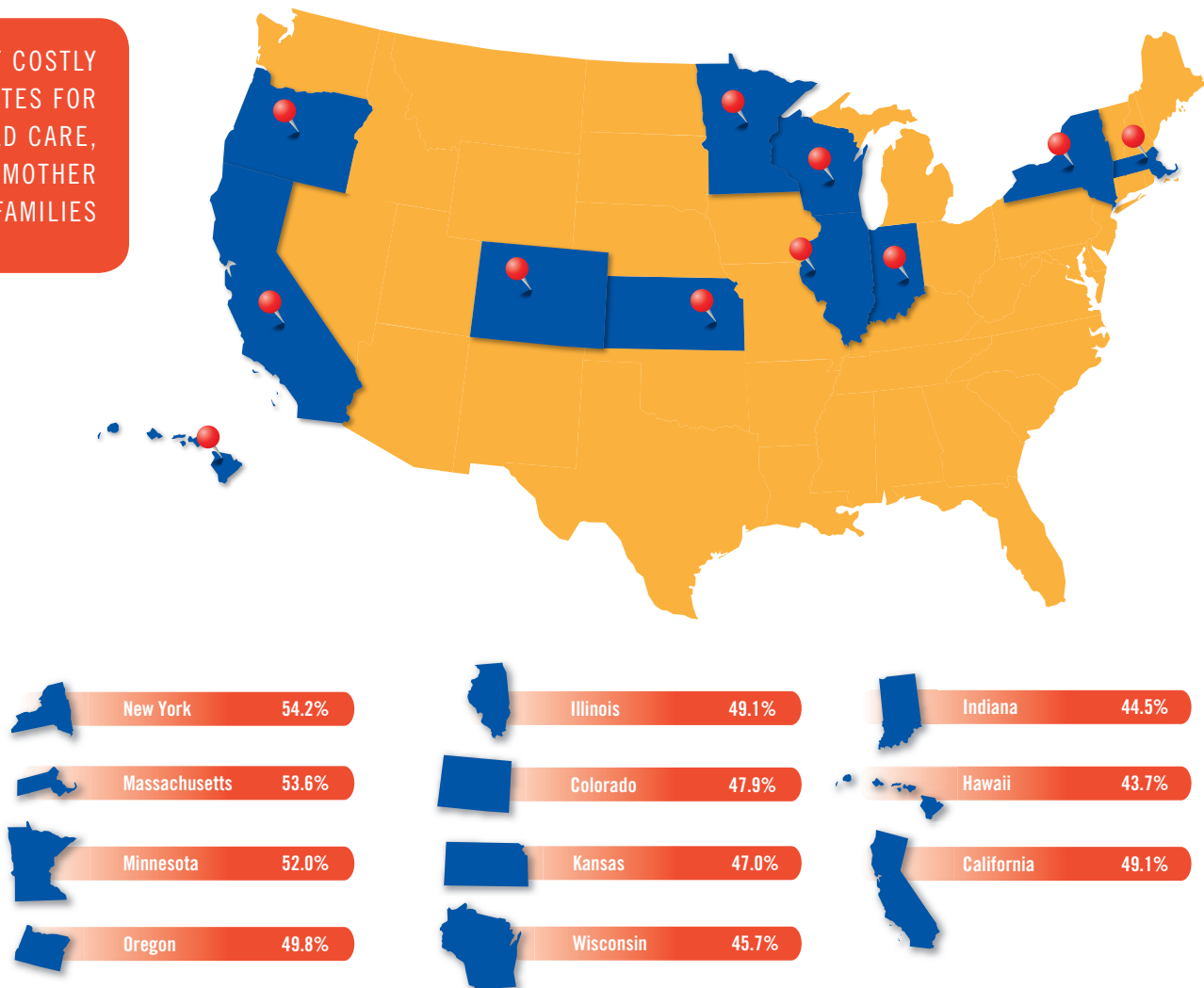
### What it is:

Child care cost is the financial cost of regular child care; however, other costs, such as transportation costs to access child care and commute time, are also important to consider.

### What it tells us:

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends that child care services should comprise no more than 10% of household income. In Illinois the cost of child care is 14.4% of a two-parent family's income. For single mothers across the state, child care demands almost 50% of their income. Across the U.S., Illinois is the fifth-most expensive state for child care for single mothers. Many families benefit from the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), this program helps working parents who qualify based on income, to receive quality daycare at a reduced rate.

MOST COSTLY  
STATES FOR  
CHILD CARE,  
SINGLE-MOTHER  
FAMILIES



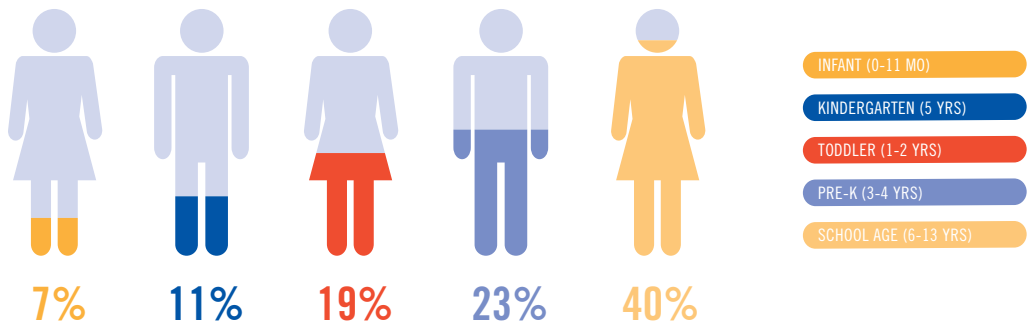
Source: Child Care Aware of America, 2012.

■ STATE

■ COST OF CARE AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE STATE MEDIAN INCOME FOR A SINGLE-MOTHER FAMILY



**CHILDREN IN ILLINOIS  
ENROLLED IN CHILD  
CARE ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAM BY AGE**



Source: Illinois Department of Human Services, 2013.

**Why it matters:**

When childcare is not available or obtainable at an affordable fee, families are forced to seek informal and unregulated options. As a result, young children miss out on social development and learning opportunities in a safe, nurturing environment. Parents without reliable and dependable childcare are unable to provide consistent weekly schedules to their employers, which impacts workplace advancement.

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

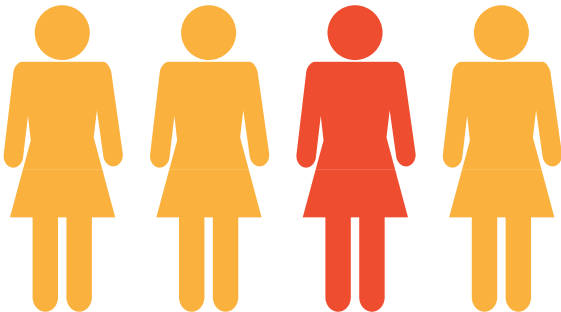
**What it is:**

Domestic violence is physical abuse, as well as sexual violence, a violation of an order of protection, intimidation, verbal and/or emotional assault that occurs in a common dwelling or relationship. All members of a household, including children, are impacted by domestic violence, be it physically or psychologically.

**What it tells us:**

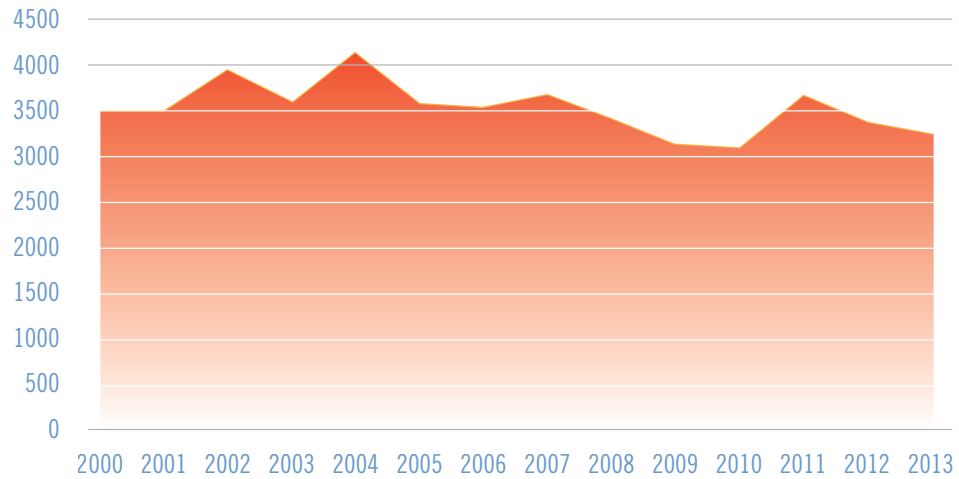
Reported domestic violence incidents in Champaign County have remained consistently high since 2000. In Champaign County in 2013, domestic violence comprised 12% of all offenses for which arrests were made, making it the fifth-most common crime in the county. Many incidents of domestic violence go unreported, research indicates only 60% of incidents actually get reported.

**1 in 4 women will be  
physically abused  
by a spouse or partner  
at some point in her life**



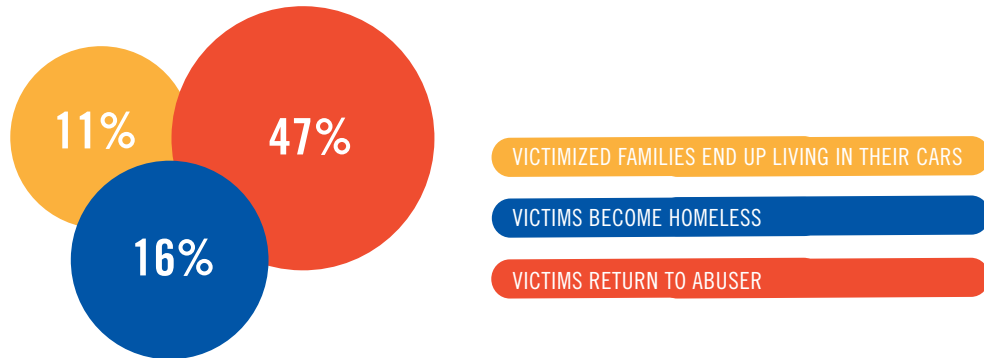
Source: National Coalition against Domestic Violence, 2014.

REPORTED  
DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE  
INCIDENTS IN  
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY



Source: Illinois State Police Reports, 2013

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE  
IN ILLINOIS:  
CONSEQUENCES OF  
UNMET REQUESTS  
FOR HELP



\*Note: Percentages do not total 100% because some women experience all or a combination of these consequences.

Source: National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2013

### Why it matters:

Domestic violence impacts one out of four women throughout their lifetime. Abusers strategically strip victims of support systems, resources, autonomy and confidence, leaving the abused paralyzed by fear and completely dependent on their abuser. Community supports and resources are crucial for this population. The consequences of unmet requests for help are tragic: many victims return to their abuser, face homelessness or displacement. Domestic violence negatively impacts health and psychological well-being of adult and children—today and tomorrow.

# 4 | Education

## KINDERGARTEN READINESS

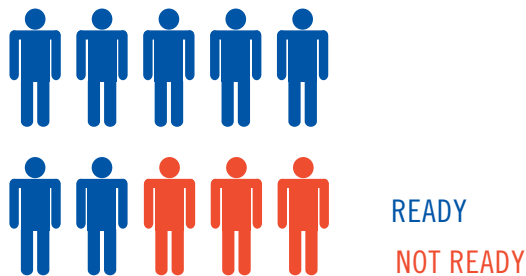
### What it is:

Kindergarten readiness indicates how prepared behaviorally, emotionally and academically a child is when entering kindergarten.

### What it tells us:

In Urbana and Champaign school districts, 67% of children were kindergarten-ready in 2014. This means that of approximately 1,225 new kindergarteners, 409 were unprepared to succeed in school. County-wide, over 56% of pre-K age children in Champaign County exhibit at least one characteristic that is linked to poor developmental and behavioral outcomes. That being said, some indicators show that we are heading in the right direction. Across Illinois, 50% of parents read to their pre-K-age children everyday—2% more than the national average. Another 54% of parents sing or tell stories to their 0-5 year-olds every day. This is important, as parents actively engaging in their children's academic and behavioral development through reading and storytelling is shown to have positive effects.

KINDERGARTEN  
READY CHILDREN  
IN CHAMPAIGN AND  
URBANA SCHOOL  
DISTRICTS (2013)



### Why it matters:

A child's academic success directly correlates to kindergarten readiness. A survey of Champaign-Urbana kindergarten and pre-K teachers agrees with national research: social-emotional skills are the most important. Factors impacting readiness include a family's economic status, access to quality childcare, adequate understanding of child development, and providing a healthy environment where a child develops autonomy.

See the next chapter for detailed information on how United Way of Champaign County is working to close the gap in kindergarten readiness in our community.

## GRADE LEVEL ACHIEVEMENT

### What it is:

Grade level achievement is defined by when students perform at or exceed expected reading and math benchmarks.

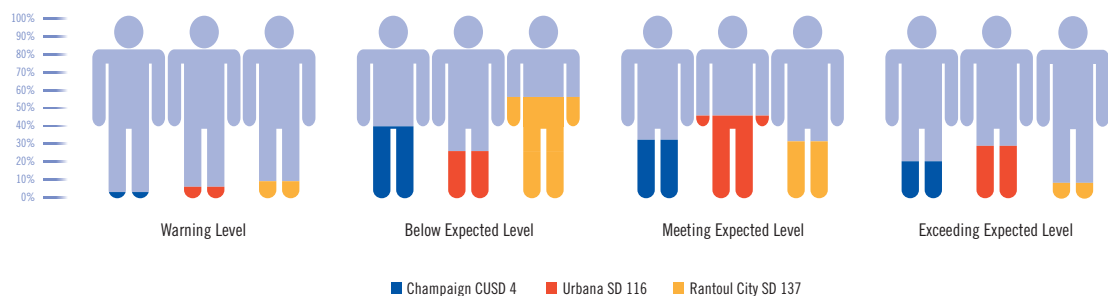
### What it tells us:

Generally, many of Champaign County's students perform just at state minimum levels. However, concern remains regarding the number of children that fall below the minimum threshold, and are at risk of entering into the warning zone. Reading and math assessments completed in third grade are indicators of the student's future academic achievement. Up until third grade students are learning how to read and comprehend text. After third grade reading then becomes an essential tool to learn more in other subjects.

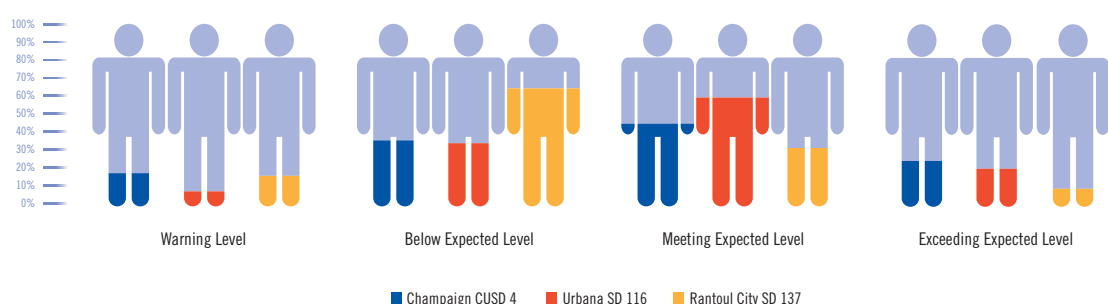
**“We need more job training and educational opportunities for our students, and not just college, because that isn’t for everybody. Every student is different and learns differently. There needs to be more apprenticeship and other types of educational opportunities.”**

~ Retired teacher

#### 3RD GRADERS' READING ACHIEVEMENT SCORES, BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

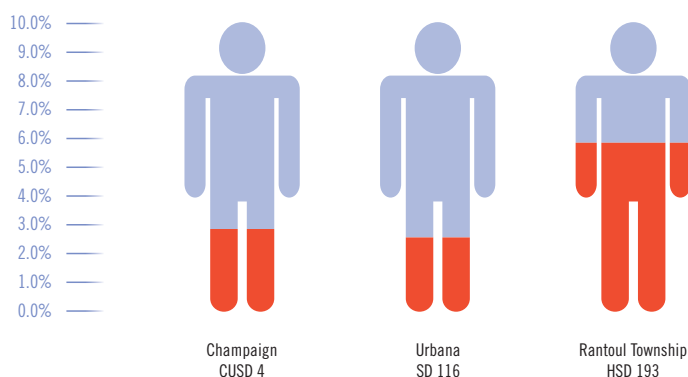


#### 3RD GRADERS' MATH ACHIEVEMENT SCORES, BY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Source: ISBE School Report card, 2013.

## LOCAL AREA HIGH SCHOOL DROP-OUT RATES



Source: Illinois State Board of Education, 2013

### Why it matters:

Fundamental reading and math skills are essential through elementary, middle and high school. Early intervention and the ability to identify children who are at risk for falling below expected grade achievement is critical for their future academic landscape. Success in education is positively correlated to gainful employment. In addition, a comprehensive education is the best safety net against poverty.

## FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH

### What it is:

Free or reduced lunch refers to the students who receive subsidized breakfast and lunch at school for free or at a reduced cost.

### What it tells us:

Our children face many obstacles at school, one of these is hunger. Over half of all children in Illinois qualify to receive subsidized meals at school. In Champaign County, about 50% of children qualified to receive free or reduced lunch during the 2012-2013 school year. All fourteen school districts saw a rise in students eligible to receive free or reduced lunch except one.

## ILLINOIS SCHOOL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROGRAM

FEDERAL GUIDELINES FOR  
QUALIFYING INCOME LEVELS

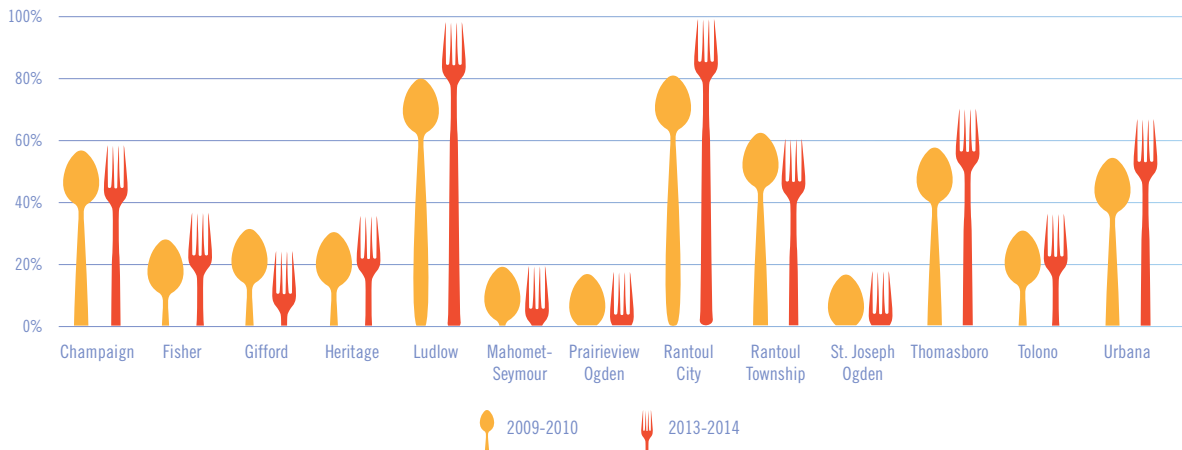
Household Size	Maximum Annual Income Level	
	Free Meals	Reduced Meals
1	\$14,937	\$21,257
2	20,163	28,694
3	25,389	36,131
4	30,615	43,568
5	35,841	51,005
6	41,067	58,442
7	46,293	65,879
8	51,519	73,316
For families of more than 8 members, add \$5,226 for each additional member for free meals and \$7,437 for reduced meals.		

Source: Illinois State Board of Education, 2014.

### Why it matters:

Evidence shows that children who have full stomachs are better able to concentrate and perform in the classroom. Furthermore, access to nutritious meals promotes healthy behavioral, mental, and physical development. Subsidized meals in the school enhance academic performance and ease the burden of trying to make ends meet for some of the community's most vulnerable families.

% ELIGIBLE  
FOR FREE  
OR REDUCED  
LUNCH



## 5 | Health and Well-being

### HEALTHCARE ACCESS

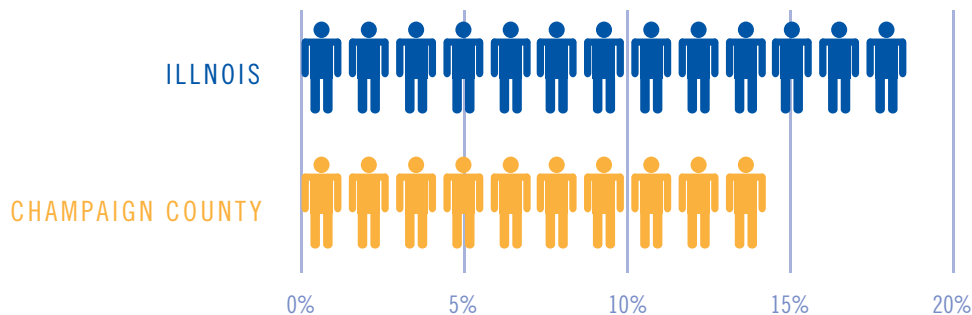
#### What it is:

Access to healthcare refers to the ability to receive reliable and affordable routine health care.

#### What it tells us:

Access to medical care remains a concern, although it does appear to be improving, due in large part to the recent expansion of healthcare coverage. One of the most significant changes is the evolution of Promise Healthcare, which managed the return of Frances Nelson healthcare operations to local control. In addition to Promise Healthcare, many other affordable healthcare providers are available in Champaign County today. These health care clinics remain crucial because an estimated 13% of Champaign County remains uninsured. Compared to the rest of Illinois, Champaign County has more healthcare providers and a lower percentage of the population who cannot see a doctor due to cost.

% OF  
PEOPLE  
UNINSURED  
IN 2013



Source: CUPDH, 2013

## FREE AND SUBSIDIZED MEDICAL CARE PROVIDERS IN CHAMPAIGN COUNTY

- » Promise Healthcare
- » SmileHealthy Dental Center of Promise Healthcare
- » Champaign-Urbana Public Health District (CUPHD)
- » Champaign County Christian Health Center
- » Avicenna Community Health Center
- » HERMES Clinic

Source: CUPHD, 2012a.

### Why it matters:

Good overall health depends upon regular physicals and preventative care. Lacking access to quality, reliable healthcare severely compromises overall well-being. Without regular medical care, people are more inclined to go without preventative care. As a result, minor problems develop into more serious medical conditions. Relying on emergency room treatment as the primary care leads to unnecessary health crisis and puts a significant burden on the healthcare system.

## DENTAL

### What it is:

Access to dental care refers to the number and proportion of people who are able to access quality dental services.

### What it tells us:

The patient to dentist ratio is 2,032:1 in Champaign County, compared to 1,531:1 on average in the state of Illinois. People with Medicaid are most significantly impacted by Champaign County's larger than state average dentist to resident ratio. Many dentists are unable to offer medical care for patients with Medicaid due to low reimbursement rates or delay in payment. Fortunately, in 2012, four new dental providers began accepting Medicaid. In addition, other subsidized dental providers continue to offer quality and affordable dental care services. Such programs offer services such as extractions and fillings, cleanings, full exams, some emergency services, and dental education, as well as a mobile dental clinic, which provides access to those who may not be able to travel to a clinic.

### Why it matters:

Dental care and oral health are increasingly acknowledged as critical components of healthy well-being. According to the American Dental Association, oral infections can affect vital organs, lead to digestion problems, and cause facial and mouth pain. Early intervention and preventative care is essential to circumventing the development of serious medical condition.

## Over the last 4 years, what social challenges have improved?

**“Access to healthcare and affordable dental care. When someone is healthy and has a healthy smile, they feel better!”** ~ Promise Healthcare patient

## PRENATAL CARE AND TEEN PREGNANCY

### What it is:

Prenatal care refers to the frequency, quality, and variety of prenatal services that expecting mothers can receive. One indicator of comprehensive prenatal care is birth weight - low birth weight is a registered weight of less than 5 pounds 8 ounces.

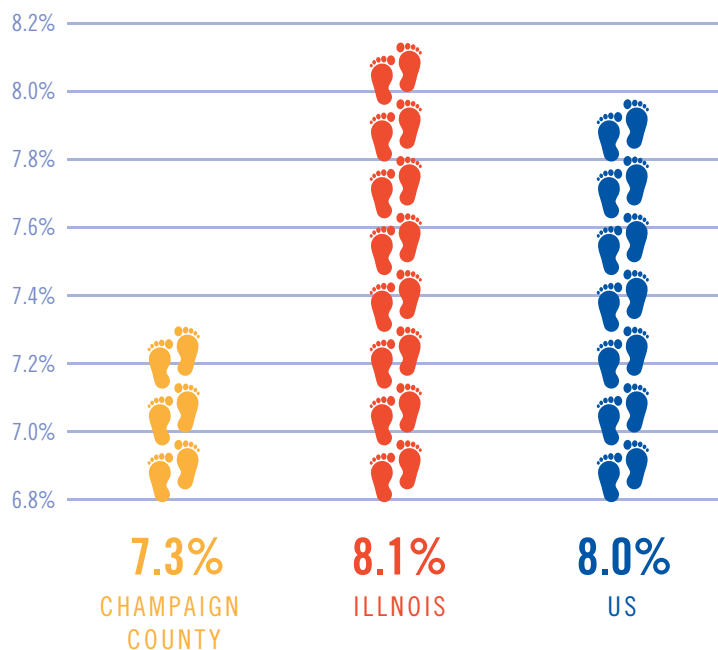
### What it tells us:

The 2011 Community Report stated that Champaign County performs above-average in terms of prenatal care. Healthy birth weight continues to remain high among newborns in Champaign County compared to state and national averages.

### Why it matters:

Maternal health and prenatal care are highly correlated with birth outcomes. Inadequate prenatal care can lead to severe consequences. Early prenatal care promotes a healthy pregnancy, birth, and baby. Obtaining prenatal care, including check-ups and education, early on in the pregnancy is critical to ensuring the health of both mother and child.

% OF LIVE BIRTHS  
THAT ARE  
LOW BIRTH  
WEIGHT



Source: National Center for Health Statistics, 2014.

### What it is:

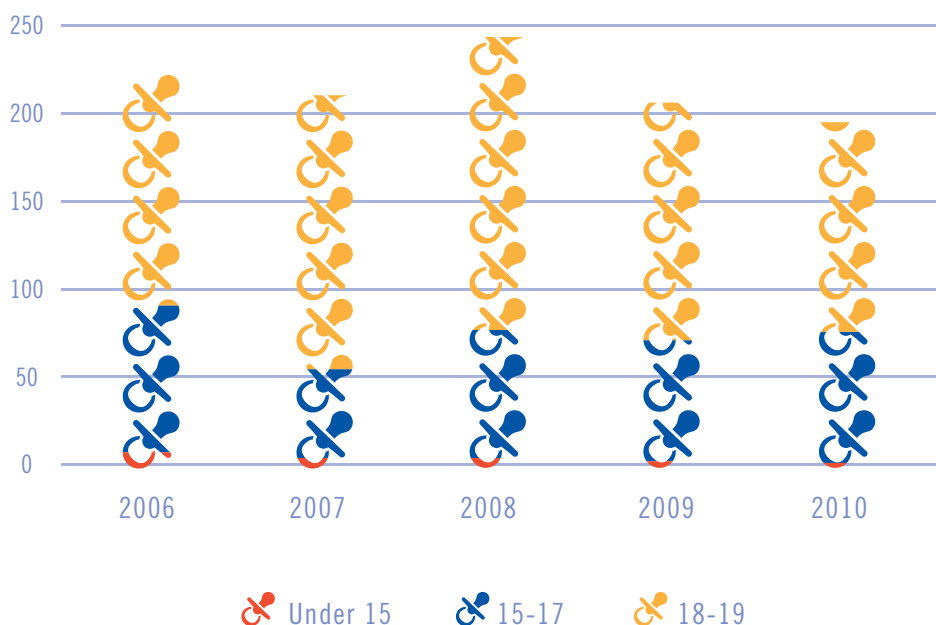
Teen pregnancy is defined as pregnancy that occurs between the age ranges of 15-19 years old.

### What it tells us:

The most recent data shows that overall, teen births are on the decline and that the majority of teen births are among 18 to 19 year-olds.



### TEEN BIRTHS BY AGE IN CHAMPAIGN COUNTY



Source: IDPH, 2014.

#### Why it matters:

Being a parent is a demanding challenge for anyone, but it is exponentially difficult for a young parent. Teen parents are less likely to finish school, pursue higher education, or obtain employment that allows for self-sufficiency. A stable nurturing environment is essential for healthy child development, because teen parents are themselves maturing, they often lack the resources and support to provide a secure environment. As a result, community support and education on child development is essential for young parents with infants.

## FACTORS AFFECTING HEALTH

#### What it is:

Participation in behaviors and/or decisions that can be detrimental to one's wellbeing, such as substance use and unprotected sex. The graph below illustrates the prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases per 100,00 people. Sexually transmitted diseases are spread primarily through person-to-person contact.

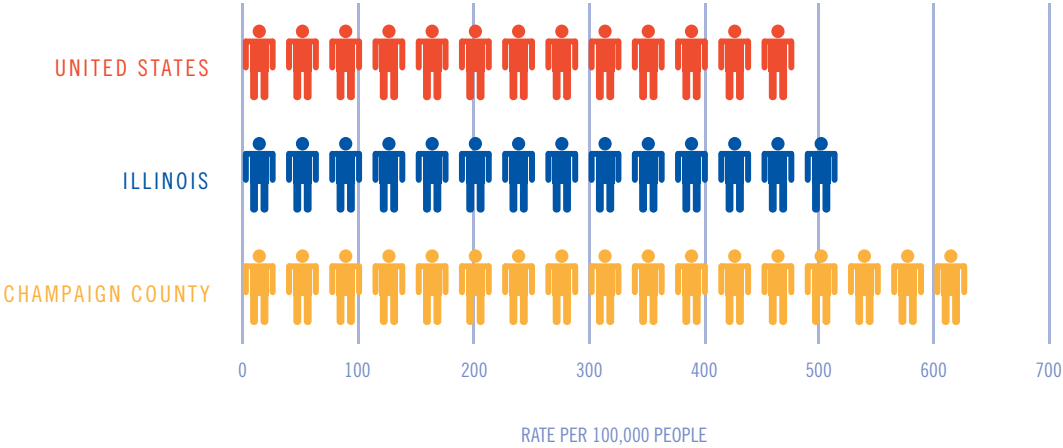
#### What it tells us:

The prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases (STD'S) including AIDS/HIV is a critical public health concern. Champaign County's rate of STD's cases reported is higher than the state average, however, the rates of HIV and AIDS in Champaign County is lower compared to other counties.

#### Why it matters:

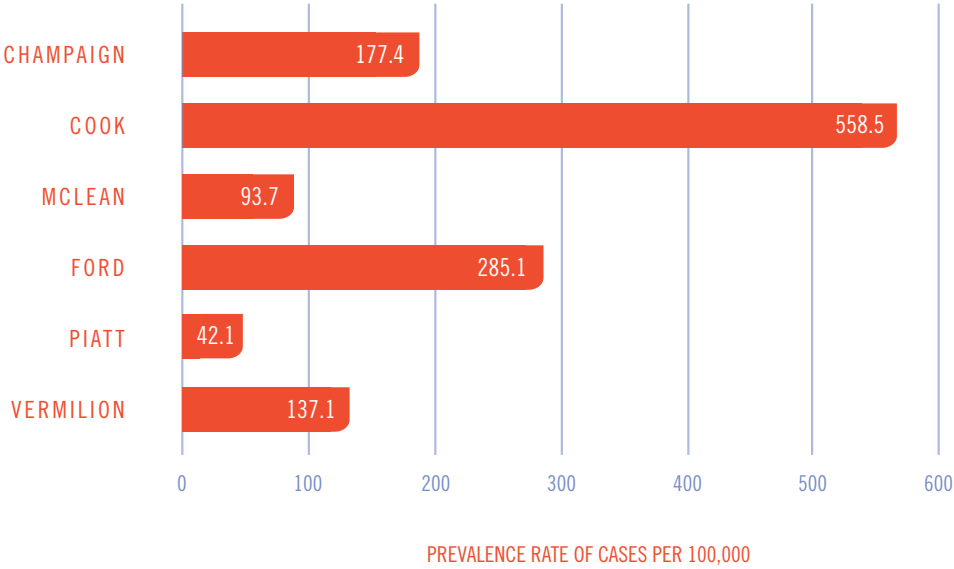
The short and long-term implications of STDs are significant to individuals and the community. Comprehensive health education efforts are in place regarding treatment and prevention of the transmission of STDs.

STD INFECTIONS  
IN 2013



Source: CUPHD, 2013

COUNTY RATES OF  
RESIDENTS  
13 YEARS  
AND OLDER  
LIVING WITH HIV



**Note:** Figures represent the year 2010, which is the year with the most recent data.  
**Source:** National Center for Health Statistics, 2014.

## 6 | Mental Health Services

### ACCESS AND CAPACITY

#### What it is:

Access and capacity refers to the number of people who are able to receive the mental health services they need, and the ability of service providers to adequately meet clients' needs.

#### What it tells us:

Mental health conditions can affect anyone, anywhere, at anytime. The 2011 community report conveyed a growing concern for unmet mental health needs. Today, the need for comprehensive and accessible mental health care continues to grow. Long wait lists for psychiatric appointments and other services are prevalent regardless of health insurance coverage. As a result, outpatient providers are forced to fill roles in mental health care they may not be fully equipped to address.

Champaign County's suicide rates are nearly double the national rate. In a recent survey of Champaign County residents found that 57% of residents reported their mental health to be "not good" at least one day of the last month.

Additionally, there is no detox facility in Champaign County for residents with Medicaid. Residents have to drive over 100 miles for the closest detox treatment center.

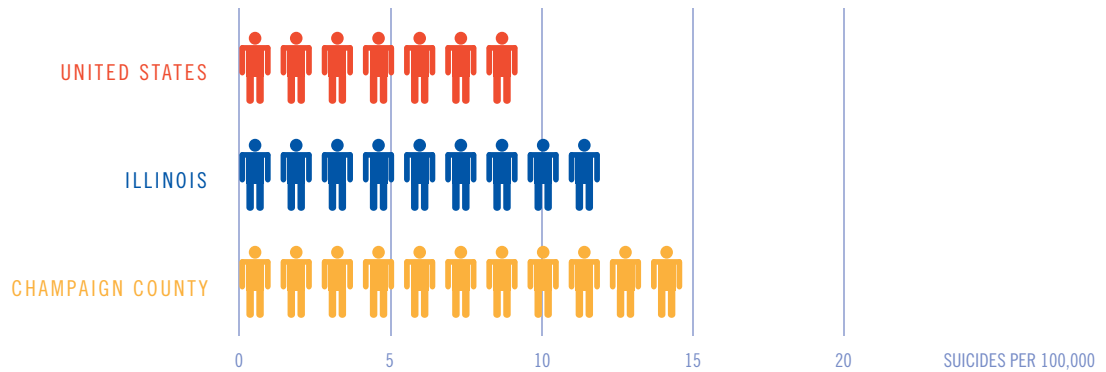
The current waitlist for mental health counseling services with Medicaid is 114 people—89 of whom are adults and 25 of whom are children. Another 89 individuals are waitlisted for case management services, and 160 for doctor services. Wait lists for a psychiatric appointment is weeks or even months long regardless of the type of insurance.

From 2009 to 2012, Illinois cut mental health spending at one of the highest rates, down \$167 million dollars in that time period, versus \$55.6 million in Massachusetts and \$26 million in Ohio, two other states which cut high amounts of mental health funding.

## Over the last 4 years, what social challenges have improved?

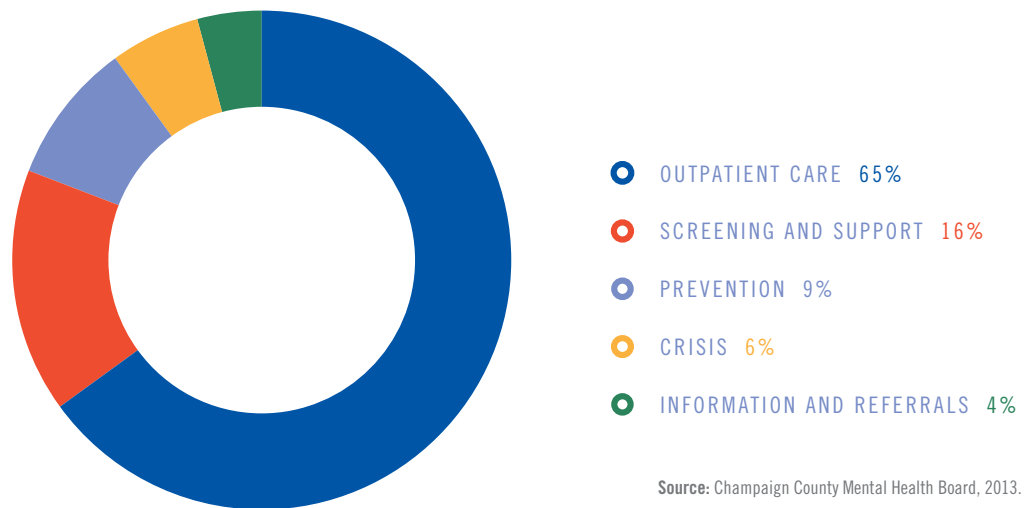
**"There is more awareness of mental health issues."**

~ Courage Connection employee

SUICIDE  
RATE

# What is the greatest challenge facing Champaign County residents?

**“Mental health assistance! Also, detox assistance and help with prescriptions.”** ~ Daily Bread volunteer

TYPE OF MENTAL  
HEALTH SERVICE  
PROVIDED IN  
CHAMPAIGN COUNTY  
2013

## Why it matters:

The implications of untreated mental health are severe; unnecessary disability, unemployment, substance abuse, homelessness, incarceration, and suicide are the most prevalent indicators of broken lives. The assessed cost of untreated mental health conditions is \$100 billion a year in the United States. Without access to immediate services or mental health professionals community members often cycle in and out of emergency rooms, as well as the criminal justice system.

See the next chapter for detailed information on how United Way of Champaign County is working to close the gap in access to mental health services in our community.

## 7 | Employment and the Economy

### UNEMPLOYMENT

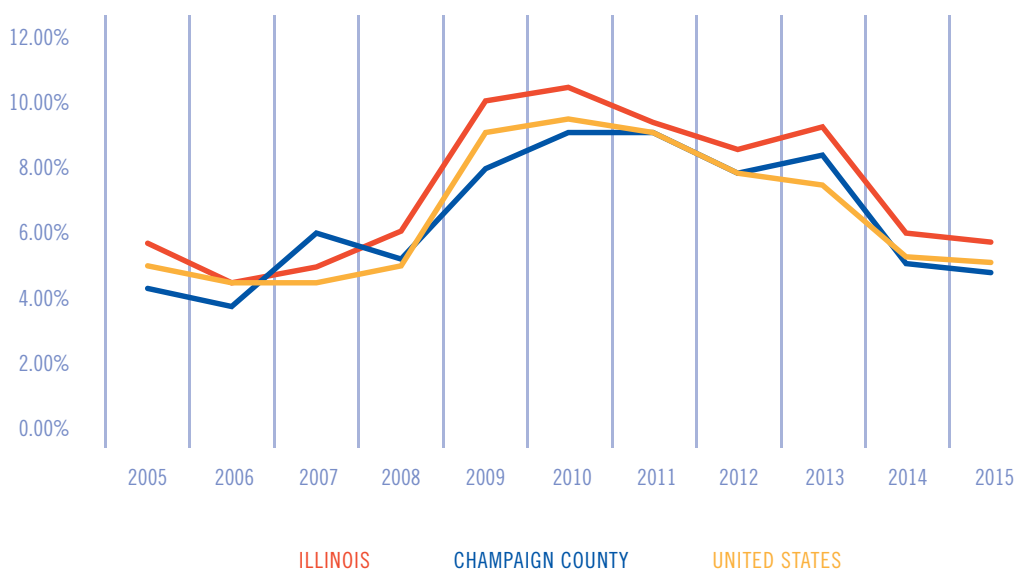
#### What it is:

Unemployment refers to the number of people actively seeking a job but currently out of work.

#### What it tells us:

At the time of this report, Champaign County's current unemployment rate is 5.2% compared to the state average which is 6.0%. Unemployment remains high across the county and state compared to pre-recession figures prior to the 2007-2008 economic downturn.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT RATES 2005-2015



Source: US Department of Labor, 2014a, 2014b.

#### Why it matters:

Gainful employment is vital for self-sufficiency. Not all jobs are created equal. Employment does not guarantee the ability to provide a living wage for a family, and many factors are associated with financial stability. Prolonged unemployment or underemployment is correlated with homelessness, higher crime rates, and poverty. Reliance on government assistance and aid from social service agencies for daily basic needs increases with unemployment.

**“The increase in the cost of living has been hard. SNAP benefits have decreased, leaving people with lots less to work with for their families.”**

~ Mother of a child in Head Start

## OCCUPATIONS

### What it is:

In Champaign County types of employment present in Champaign County and associated wages, calculated per hour.

### What it tells us:

Jobs that pay a living wage are available in Champaign County. Our county is highly educated, which creates a competitive job market. Specific vocational skills, training, experience or education is essential to obtain a position with a living wage.

#### OCCUPATIONS IN CHAMPAIGN COUNTY AND ASSOCIATED WAGES

INDUSTRY	HOURLY WAGE
Food Preparation & Serving	\$9.09
Personal Care & Services	\$9.93
Building, Grounds Cleaning, & Maintenance	\$11.14
Healthcare Support	\$11.68
Sales & Related	\$11.78
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	\$13.16
Transportation & Material Moving	\$13.65
Production	\$14.77
Office & Administrative Support	\$15.09
Protective Service	\$18.39
Community & Social Service	\$19.14
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media	\$20.12
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	\$20.59
Education, Training, & Library	\$23.48
Construction & Extraction	\$26.24
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical Employee	\$28.25
Business & Financial Operations	\$28.75
Life, Physical, & Social Science	\$31.48
Architecture & Engineering	\$32.84
Computer & Mathematical	\$34.61
Management	\$41.95
Legal	\$42.09

Source: Glasmier, 2014.

### Why it matters:

A thriving community where members have spending power, are self-sufficient, and able to save for their future is dependent on job availability. Lack of such opportunities, and structural barriers embedded in the labor market make it difficult to secure a job and earn a decent living.

# Over the last 4 years, have any new needs emerged?

**“A need for more job training.”** ~ Male adult at the Urbana Saturday Market

# Where we're Heading:

## KEY ISSUES GOING FORWARD

As the previous section demonstrates, residents of Champaign County face various challenges and needs every day. All of the needs discussed are critical—and often interrelated. To make the most impact with resources, funds, and effort, needs must be strategically targeted. Going forward, United Way of Champaign County has identified three gaps that must be closed: homelessness among children, low availability of mental health services, and lacking kindergarten readiness.

### United Way of Champaign County TARGETED GAPS



#### HOMELESS CHILDREN

697 school-age children were homeless in Champaign County last year.



#### MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Hundreds of people in this community are on the waiting list for mental health services.



#### KINDERGARTEN READINESS

33% of Champaign County students are not ready on their first day of kindergarten.

Read on for the actions that  
United Way of Champaign County  
is taking to close these gaps...



### Gap 1: Homeless Children

Surveyed community members and stakeholders identified access to safe and affordable housing as a pressing need facing Champaign County residents. Homelessness among children is particularly critical, as the lack of shelter and displacement stunt development and growth.

Going forward, United Way of Champaign County will help alleviate homelessness among children by:

- » **Lead steering team spearheading the Emergency Shelter for Families, which opened in early 2016**
- » **Develop sustainability plan and commit to initial funding for stabilization.**
- » **Transition operations to existing service provider.**
- » **Continue to work with local collaborations addressing lack of affordable housing for low income households.**

### Gap 2: Access to Mental Health Services

Community members and social service agencies cite a dire need for expanded mental health service access and capacity in Champaign County. After homelessness, lacking mental health services was the second-most cited challenge facing the community. This supports earlier assessments on the greatest gaps in Champaign County completed by United Way.

Going forward, United Way of Champaign County will help fill the mental health services gap by:

- » **Identify current Behavioral Health service needs and best practices to address them.**
- » **Convene stakeholders to determine strategies to address identified needs and implement them**

### Gap 3: Low Kindergarten Readiness

Kindergarten readiness is the foundation of child development. Increased investment and efforts towards pre-K development fosters healthy growth, thus decreasing the likelihood of children being affected by various other adversities later on in life. Because of the power of kindergarten readiness, United Way has prioritized kindergarten preparedness as a key gap to target.

Going forward, United Way of Champaign County will help fill the kindergarten readiness gap by:

- » **Invite programs showing measurable outcomes related to UWCC-identified metrics to apply for funding.**
- » **Continue as Kindergarten Readiness anchor entity for the Champaign Urbana Cradle to Career collaboration.**
- » **Implement and revise, as needed, the 3 identified CUC2C-Kindergarten Readiness Strategies.**
- » **Increase number of locations supporting Prescription to Read.**
- » **Increase by at least 50% the number of distribution sites that provide community education materials supporting Kindergarten readiness.**



# Closing the Gap:

## A CALL TO ACTION

This Community Report has highlighted the various fundamental social well-being challenges that affect Champaign County today. While there is a lot of work to be done, there is strength in numbers. **Champaign County needs you to help make a difference!**

This section suggests strategies to help all community stakeholders get involved in closing the gap on poverty and social challenges. Specifically, this section sets forth individual how community members and local social services agencies can push the community-wide effort forward.

### Community members

United Way of Champaign County has long encouraged our community members to Give, Advocate, and Volunteer. Here are a few ways that you and your workplace can give back to our community.

#### WAYS TO GIVE

- » Encourage your **workplace to sponsor a creative fundraiser** whose proceeds are allocated to a particular cause or agency. Past ideas include hosting a 5K run, an auction, or donating a percentage of proceeds.
- » Support special fundraising initiatives, like the United Way **Power of the Purse** campaign and the **Farmers Feeding Families** program.
- » Contact United Way to learn how you can become an individual **donor** or help initiate a **workplace campaign** at your place of employment.

#### WAYS TO ADVOCATE

- » **Spread knowledge to your social networks** about key public policy issues affecting human well-being in this community, such as pre-K education opportunities, lacking mental health services, and acute child homelessness.
- » **Lobby your local and state officials** on these critical issues. Send emails and letters, attend town hall meetings, and vote.
- » Join forces with other advocacy networks in the community. Power in numbers!

#### WAYS TO VOLUNTEER

- » For University of Illinois students, faculty, and staff, get involved with the **University of Illinois United Way Student Organization**. For young professionals, join **United Way's Emerging Community Leaders** program.
- » Lend a helping hand at **special fundraisers** sponsored by United Way, such as the **Power of the Purse** every May.
- » Head to **CUvolunteer.org** to learn about up-to-date volunteer opportunities across Champaign County.

## Community Service Providers

By taking steps within our organizations and across the field, we as social service agencies can help to further close the gaps in Champaign County. Here are a few ideas of how.

### COLLABORATION IS KEY

- » **Share data** and make major findings accessible to the public, and other social service agencies in Champaign and surrounding counties. Let your agency peers know when you have something to share!
- » Explore **joint funding opportunities** with other agencies.
- » **Register with 2-1-1**. Keep 2-1-1 updated on major changes that would affect potential clients, such as moving to a new location or the addition or elimination of key services.

### TRACKING SUCCESSES AND SHORTCOMINGS

- » Think about your program and agency outcomes. Start there, then **work backwards** to develop your program plan and budget.
- » Develop a strong **logic model** for your agency's programs, and use it to work towards your targeted outcomes. **Train your entire staff on the logic model.**
- » **Monitor benchmark indicators** and consider how those indicators help reach desired outcomes. If something is not working, consider alternatives.

# What does United Way mean to you?

**“People standing together to help those that are in need,  
no matter what the situation may be.”** ~ Mother of a child in Head Start

**“Helping out the community.”** ~ Courage Connection employee

**“Champaign County.”** ~ Mother of two

# Special Acknowledgements

Thank you to the following agencies and community organizations for partnering with United Way and assisting in research for this report: CU Cradle-to-Career, Courage Connection, Community Elements, Daily Bread, Head Start, Promise Healthcare and SmileHealthy Dental Clinic, the Regional Office of Education, the University of Illinois School of Social Work, and the Urbana Saturday Market at the Square.

A special thank you to the United Way of Champaign County Community Impact Committee for their thoughtful feedback and direction.

# Our Mission, Our Values

## OUR MISSION

United Way of Champaign County brings people and resources together to create positive change and lasting impact in our community.

## OUR VALUES

### Leadership

We participate in solving problems facing our community based on a solid understanding of needs, resources, and best practices. We position ourselves as initiators of change and provide leadership to protect our community's safety net of human services.

### Partnership

We search for ways to create a true sense of community by bringing together diverse groups of stakeholders and volunteers to address serious community issues and provide opportunities for individuals and organizations to collectively make a difference and create change in Champaign County.

### Responsiveness

Recognizing that our community and the needs of our residents are ever-changing, we continually look for ways to identify and respond to those needs. We are driven by a commitment to address our community's most vital human needs and to create long lasting change that is relevant to the people of our community.

### Integrity

We promote public confidence as an organization that is a highly responsible trustee of community resources. We set high standards for our conduct and strive to be trusted in all regards as an effective partner that works for the common good with honesty and integrity.

### Good Governance

We focus on achieving the highest standards of organizational excellence. Our policies and practices reflect prudent use of resources, transparency in our finances, and diligent stewardship of stakeholder investments.

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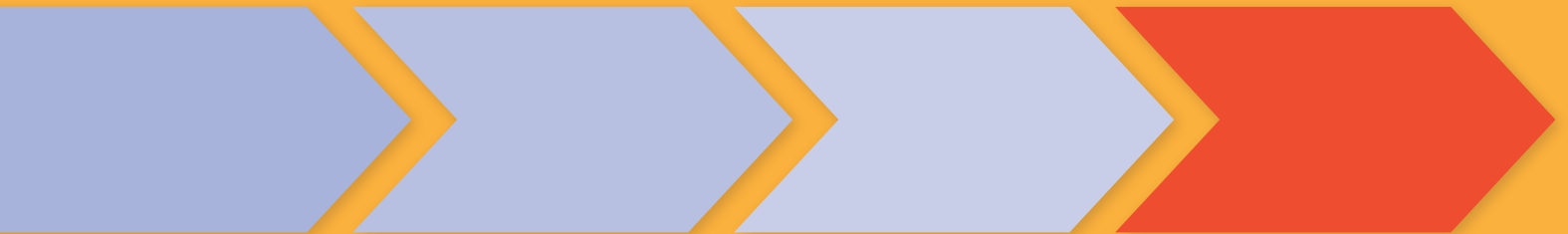


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