

Community Report 2023

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY:

A CROSSROADS FOR CHANGE



United Way
of Champaign County

From the Board Chair

The 2023 Community Report for the United Way of Champaign County suggests that our community is at a crossroads. While the majority of Well-Being Indicators for Champaign County compare poorly to the state average, they do show marked improvement since our last Community Report in 2015. This is especially inspiring given that we are just now emerging from a global pandemic that disproportionately impacted community members in lower income brackets.

The United Way of Champaign County is also at a crossroads. We recently changed our grantmaking model to better align with the key areas that are critical to improving the health, education and financial stability of our community. The indicators show that our new approach is working.

In addition to introducing a new grantmaking model, we have also played a key role in addressing some of the most pressing issues facing Champaign County. United Way raised and distributed more than \$1 million in funding to help our community respond and recover from the pandemic in 2020. More recently, we partnered with the University of Illinois, Busey, Carle Health, Christie Clinic, and OSF Healthcare to raise \$300,000 in grant funding for organizations that are using proven methods to reduce violence. These are just two examples that demonstrate what I feel is United Way's most unique attribute: the ability to quickly and effectively address our community's ever-evolving challenges.

This 2023 Community Report provides context about the current health of our community, summarizes the actions that are currently being taken, and indicates the direction we are heading. The report also includes a call to action. We need everyone in our community to join together to support policies and programming that help our neighbors thrive. Please take some time to review this report and consider how you can join in our efforts.

Thank you for your support. We are fortunate to live in such a vibrant community – let's work together to keep it that way for generations to come.



Sarah M. Zehr Gantz
United Way of Champaign County
2022-23 Board Chair

Table of Contents

04	Executive Summary
07	Framing the 2023 Community Report
08	Methodology
09	Where We Stand
	<i>The State of Fundamental Issues Today</i>
	10 Basic Needs
	18 Housing and Homelessness
	22 Family Support and Child Care
	26 Education
	29 Health and Well-Being
	34 Mental Health Services and Child Well-Being
	38 Violence Reduction
	42 Employment and the Economy
44	Where We Are Heading
	<i>Key Issues Going Forward</i>
48	A Call to Action
49	Our Community Impact Approach
51	References

Executive Summary

This 2023 Community Report documents, in one location, an overview of data representing the human condition in our community. This current edition aims to update the status of needs set forth in 2011 and 2015 and identifies the priority of challenges going forward. To produce the 2023 Community Report, we drew on a variety of research methods. We utilized desk research, interviews, and surveys with community members, service users and human service providers conducted over the past two years.

The data compiled in this report focuses on the following social needs in Champaign County:

1

Basic Needs

Basic needs are the fundamental needs that families 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 19.9% and the child poverty rate is 18.8%, both of which are above the state averages. Compared to other counties in Illinois, Champaign remains one of the most impoverished in the state.

2

Housing and Homelessness

Maintaining or obtaining affordable housing is a challenge that residents in this community continue to 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. According to reporting from United Way's 211 help line, the top reason people in Champaign County reach out for help is housing, followed by utility assistance and mental health and addiction services..

3

Family Support and Child Care

Family support and child care refer to resources and networks available in the community designed 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 diaper costs. For most single mothers child care demands almost 50% of their income. Child care has been a struggle for all families since the onset of the pandemic. Centers closed, some did not reopen, staff shortages have led to classrooms and at-home day cares sitting empty with waiting lists.

4

Education

Education refers to the academic, behavioral, and social development of children up to age 18. In this report, education encompasses three key components: kindergarten readiness, grade level achievement, and educational attainment. 74% of Unit 4 and 93% of Urbana 116 third graders are not meeting grade-level learning standards in Champaign English Language Arts. In Rantoul City Schools 137, 98% of third graders are not meeting learning standards in English Language Arts. 69% of Unit 4 and 85% of Urbana 116 third graders are not meeting Math learning standards. In Rantoul City Schools 96% of third graders are not meeting Math learning standards.

5

Health and Well-Being

Health and well-being is the preservation and enhancement of physical health. Measurements of health and well-being include health care access, maternal and child health and social determinant factors affecting health. Healthcare clinics outside of mainstream hospital systems remain crucial because an estimated 7% of Champaign County residents remain uninsured.

6

Mental Health Services & Child Well-Being

Mental health services refer to a wide range of treatments and supports for community members in need of mental health support. Mental health conditions can affect anyone, anywhere, at any time. The severe lack of mental health services is one of the most cited needs of patients by service providers. Unmet needs are reflected by ongoing waitlists of a year or more for counseling, medical, and case management services by local providers.

7

Violence Reduction

Over the past few years our community has seen a precipitous rise in violence. Of particular concern is the rise in violence among our youth and young adults. Champaign County is not alone. According to the FBI, violent crime in the United States was up 5.8% in 2020. In 2018, the most recent year for which data was available, 302 youth were admitted to short-term locked juvenile detention facilities in Champaign County.

8

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. One of the greatest concerns is that wages are not keeping up with the rising cost of living. At the time of this report, there has been significant inflation nationally for key goods and services. There is a current workforce shortage affecting many industries in our community and nationally. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, over 10,000 Champaign County workers left the workforce between March and April of 2020. This is not fully attributable to the COVID-19 pandemic – additional factors include workers leaving the state and an aging population.

Going Forward

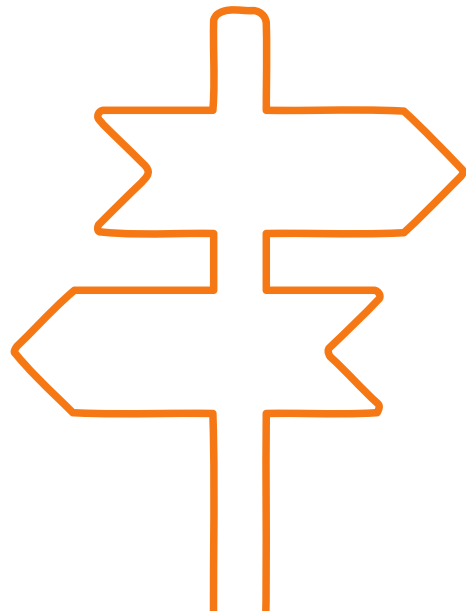
**When we
Live United,
we can solve
even the toughest
community
challenges.**

In our 2015 Community Report we emphasized the critical importance of business, higher education, the public sector, and our broader community joining the efforts of social service agencies to close the gaps between social needs and available resources.

This report finds that our community is at a crossroads. Together we have made strong progress in closing the gaps. Unfortunately, Champaign County still lags the state average in most of the critical indicators.

The success of United Way's new grant model has demonstrated that by focusing our resources on specific challenges, we can change the statistics.

For our community to thrive, we all must continue to work collaboratively, give generously, and advocate tirelessly.



Framing the 2023 Community Report

In 2011, United Way of Champaign County (UWCC) published its inaugural Community Report. Drawing from interviews with key stakeholders, this document set forth critical concerns about the quality of life for 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, but not limited to: the economic recovery in the wake of the 2008-2012 recession, incremental increase of the minimum wage, introduction of the Affordable Care Act, arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic, and continued resettlement of immigrants and refugees from across the world. Many of these changes- good and bad- highlight the inequities and disparities that exist in our community. This has shown that Champaign County is an increasingly diversified community, one which continuously faces new social and linguistic challenges. It is a community rich with resources and concern for neighbors, yet certain populations in our community remain economically vulnerable.

The 2022 Community Report refreshes the preceding reports by presenting updated statistics and figures on those seven issues and introducing a new issue: violence. The most current data available is used throughout this report.

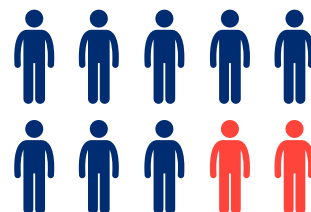
Champaign County at a Glance



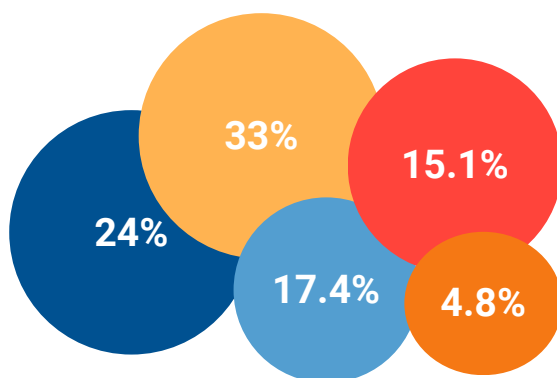
**MEDIAN
AGE**
30.1



**MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD
INCOME**
\$52,797



POPULATION 205,865
PEOPLE LIVING IN POVERTY 38,566



ALICE HOUSEHOLDS

MINORITY POPULATION

SPEAK LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH AT HOME

POVERTY RATE

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

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:

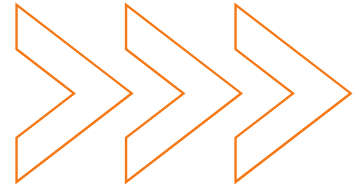
- Government reports, including US Census data and state and local government sources
- State and local not-for-profit agencies
- University of Illinois reports and studies
- Evidence-based practice research reports
- Comments and data from United Way of Champaign County's December 2020 Community Survey
- 2019 surveys conducted at Urbana's Market at the Square

Our original research with community members included:

- Surveys with staff and volunteers from local social service agencies
- Surveys with a broad spectrum community members
- Telephone and in-person interviews with staff and board members from local agencies
- Follow-up surveys with community stakeholders who participated in the 2015 Community Report

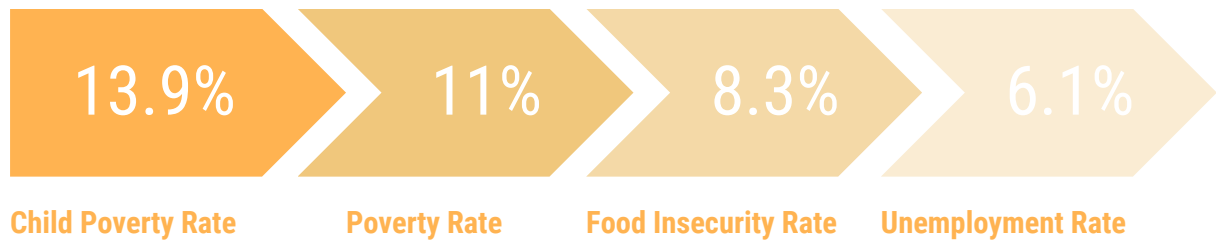


Where We Stand: The State of the Fundamental Issues Today



Well-Being Indicators

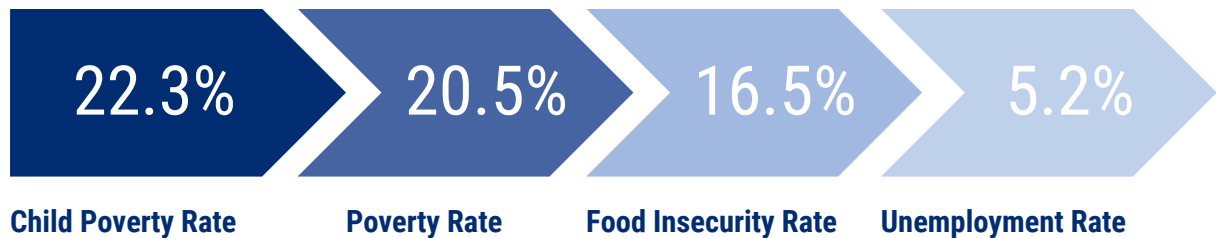
Illinois, 2022



Champaign County, 2022



Champaign County, 2015



Source: Social Impact Research Center, 2013, 2020.; U.S Census Bureau 2020; Illinois Department of Employment Security, 2022.

**While all areas have improved since 2015,
3 out of 4 well-being indicators for
Champaign County remain higher than the
State of Illinois average.**

1 BASIC NEEDS

POVERTY

Most Impoverished Counties, Illinois			
Poverty Rank	County	Poverty Rate	Percent Change from 2015
1	Alexander	24.2%	-8.7%
2	Pulaski	20.4%	-4.4%
3	Vermillion	18.6%	-0.3%
4	Hardin	18.0%	-2.7%
5	Coles	17.5%	-5.4%
6	Jackson	17.2%	-12.2%
7	McDonough	16.8%	-5.5%
8	Brown	16.7%	5.1%
9	Lawrence	16.5%	-1.7%
10	Gallatin	15.6%	-5.3%
11	Franklin	15.5%	-4%
12	White	15.4%	1.4%
13	Saline	15.3%	-5.7%
14	Champaign	15.1%	-5.4%
15	Johnson	14.9%	4.1%

Source: Social Impact Research Center, 2013, 2020.

What it means:

In 2020, Champaign County was ranked as the 14th most impoverished County in the State. The county's ranking in 2015 was 10th.

What we know:

Champaign County's poverty rate has improved since 2015 by 5.4%. Even with that improvement Champaign County poverty rate is still higher than the state average of 11%. 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 48 other counties on the well-being watch or warning list.







Why it matters:

There has been significant change in the poverty rate for Champaign County since 2015. However, there is still work to be done to combat poverty in Champaign County. Breaking the patterns of behavior, societal trends and institutional guidelines that perpetuate poverty is a community wide effort, one Champaign County continues to put forth. Focusing resources and efforts on root causes of the four indicators listed in the paragraph above will be crucial to see continuous improvement in Champaign County's placement in the rankings.

FEDERAL POVERTY GUIDELINES

What it means:

This chart identifies by family size and annual income who will be at or below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Federal guidelines for poverty are extremely low, therefore, families that meet or fall below poverty guidelines need additional services to maintain the most basic needs for themselves and their children.

Family Size	Poverty Income ≤ 100% FPL		
	2022	2014	2011
	\$13,590	\$11,670	\$10,890
	\$18,310	\$15,730	\$14,210
	\$23,030	\$19,790	\$18,530
	\$27,750	\$23,850	\$22,350
	\$32,470	\$27,910	\$26,170
	\$37,190	\$31,970	\$29,990

Federal Poverty Guidelines
by family type
and annual income

Source: Social Action Research Center, 2013.; US Census Bureau, 2012 & 2013; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2022

What we know:

In 2020, 15.1% of residents living in Champaign County were living in poverty, which ranked higher than the state average of 11%.

Among all family types, single-parent households, including predominantly single female parents with young children, are the most vulnerable to living in poverty. Champaign County's current child poverty rate registers at 15.4%, which is 4.4 percentage points higher than the state average.

Why it matters:

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 of experiencing abuse and neglect. In addition, they are more likely to engage in risky behavior that negatively affects their mental health and physical well-being. Adults living in constant stress are more likely to miss work, develop chronic health issues and struggle with poor mental health.

What it means:

ALICE stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed- in other words, low-wage earners. These community members make enough to get by but not enough to meet a level of confidence in self-sufficiency. Many are one health scare, broken appliance, car repair, or change in work hours away from a financial crisis. United for ALICE research is powered by United Way.

What we know:

The ALICE in Focus: Children Report provides data on children by race/ethnicity, disability status, living arrangements, number of workers in the household, and much more. It is a new lens on children in financial hardship with a level of detail that can help drive meaningful change.

Why it matters:

The number of children growing up in financial hardship in Illinois has been systematically undercounted. For decades, policymakers and community stakeholders have relied on the outdated Federal Poverty Level (FPL) to understand the extent of financial hardship in their communities. According to the FPL, 15% of children in Illinois (427,174) lived in poverty in 2019. Yet United For ALICE data shows that another 26% (739,626) – almost twice as many – were also growing up in hardship, in households that earned above the FPL but not enough to afford the basics in the communities where they lived.

The reality is that 1,166,800 children in Illinois – 41% of all children – lived in a household with income below the ALICE Threshold of Financial Survival in 2019. These households included families in poverty as well as those who were ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. Many ALICE families earn too much to be eligible for public assistance but still struggle to meet basic needs for their children

ALICE households are much more likely to lack stable housing, quality child care/early education, private health insurance, and home internet access, yet they still don't qualify for many public assistance programs. When these necessities are at risk, there are both short- and long-term consequences for children below the ALICE Threshold.





90%

Single Female-Headed Household



79%

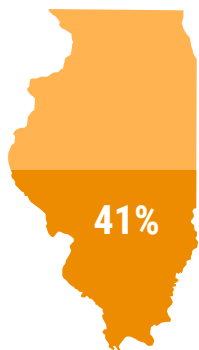
Single Male-Headed Household

Source: Illinois United for ALICE in Focus: Children, 2022

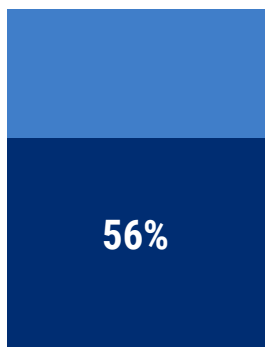
Single Parent Families in Champaign County

ALICE or Living in Poverty

Illinois



Champaign County



Source: Illinois United for ALICE in Focus: Children, 2022

Children in Champaign County

ALICE or Living in Poverty

Race or Ethnicity	Illinois Children Poverty or ALICE	Champaign County Children Poverty or ALICE
Black	66%	94%
Hispanic	59%	88%
Asian	30%	68%
White	27%	35%

Source: Illinois United for ALICE in Focus: Children, 2022

Children in Champaign County

ALICE or Living in Poverty by Race or Ethnicity

ALICE HOUSEHOLD SURVIVAL BUDGET

What it means:

The ALICE Household Survival Budget estimates the actual bare-minimum costs of basic necessities (housing, child care, food, transportation, health care, and a basic smartphone plan) in Illinois, adjusted for different counties and household types.

What we know:

A single parent with a child in childcare must earn \$22.48 per hour full-time to afford the bare-minimum costs of basic necessities in Champaign County. Currently, the minimum wage is \$13 per hour in Illinois. In households with two adults and two children in childcare, adults must earn \$36.43 per hour full-time. Families with adults working minimum-wage jobs experience the most difficulty in establishing stability. Given that the minimum wage in Illinois is \$13 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.

Why it matters:

At the time of this report, there has been significant inflation nationally on key goods and services such as food, gas, and household essentials, thus stretching ALICE families' already insufficient budgets. Many 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 of those struggling financially in our community.

ALICE Household Survival Budget, Champaign County

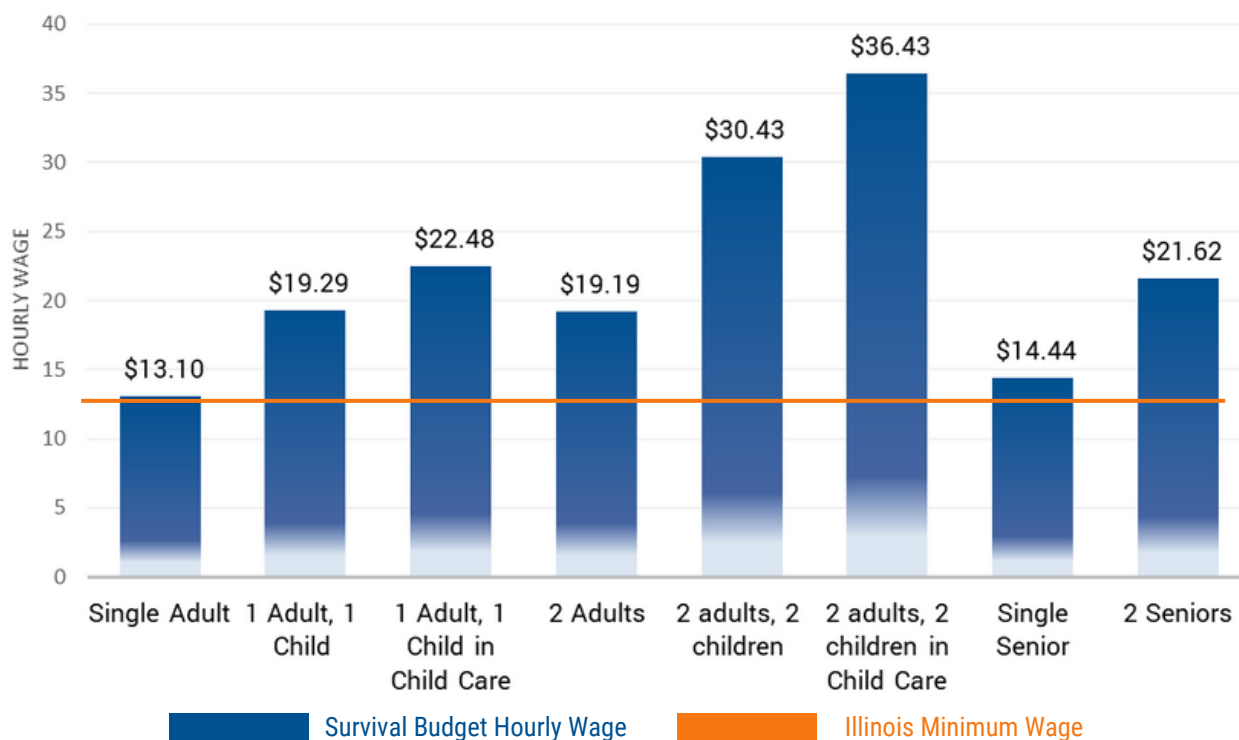
	Single Adult	One Adult, One Child	One Adult, One In Child Care	Two Adults	Two Adults, Two Children	Two Adults, Two In Child Care	Single Senior	Two Seniors
Housing	\$814	\$920	\$920	\$920	\$1,124	\$1,124	\$814	\$920
Child Care	\$0	\$219	\$660	\$0	\$438	\$1,243	\$0	\$0
Food	\$263	\$454	\$380	\$546	\$912	\$796	\$224	\$465
Transportation	\$335	\$493	\$493	\$507	\$803	\$803	\$289	\$415
Health Care	\$208	\$439	\$439	\$439	\$745	\$745	\$486	\$973
Technology	\$55	\$55	\$55	\$75	\$75	\$75	\$55	\$75
Miscellaneous	\$199	\$292	\$341	\$291	\$461	\$552	\$219	\$328
Taxes	\$310	\$343	\$459	\$421	\$514	\$733	\$319	\$428
Monthly Total	\$2,184	\$3,215	\$3,747	\$3,199	\$5,072	\$6,071	\$2,406	\$3,604
Annual Total	\$26,208	\$38,580	\$44,964	\$38,388	\$60,864	\$72,852	\$28,872	\$43,248
Hourly Wage	\$13.10	\$19.29	\$22.48	\$19.19	\$30.43	\$36.43	\$14.44	\$21.62

The ALICE household survival budget can be customized for all family sizes using the following data:

Add 1 Adult	Add 1 Senior (65+)	Add 1 Infant	Add 1 Preschooler	Add 1 School-Age Child
\$13,762	\$15,959	\$17,698	\$16,780	\$11,237

Source: Illinois United for ALICE, 2018

ALICE Survival Budget Hourly Wage, Champaign County



Source: Illinois United for ALICE, 2018.

Find More Data Online at the United for ALICE Research Center



United For ALICE sheds light on the everyday struggles of households that are ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed).

The Research Center is the hub of **UnitedForALICE.org** — a one-stop source for exploring the latest ALICE data, on a national scale down to the local level in each partner state. The Research Center includes interactive data visualizations for every county in Illinois.

In addition, the *ALICE: in Focus* Research Series spotlights the struggles of people in specific ALICE populations, including children, people with disabilities, and military veterans.

Explore the complete Illinois report by visiting **UnitedForALICE.org/Illinois**.

[View Interactive Data](#)



FOOD INSECURITY

What it means:

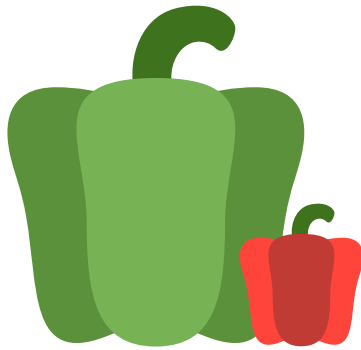
The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food insecurity as a lack of consistent access to enough food for everyone in the household to live an active, healthy life.

What we know:

According to the most recent figure, 11% of Champaign County residents or about 22,645 people are food insecure. As recently as the fall of 2021, 49% of Illinois families with children considered ALICE or below reported that sometimes or often, “children were not eating enough because we just couldn’t afford enough food.”

Today, about 11% of Champaign County residents receive SNAP (often referred to as food stamps). Almost 89% 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



Food Secure **89.5%**

Food Insecure **10.5%**

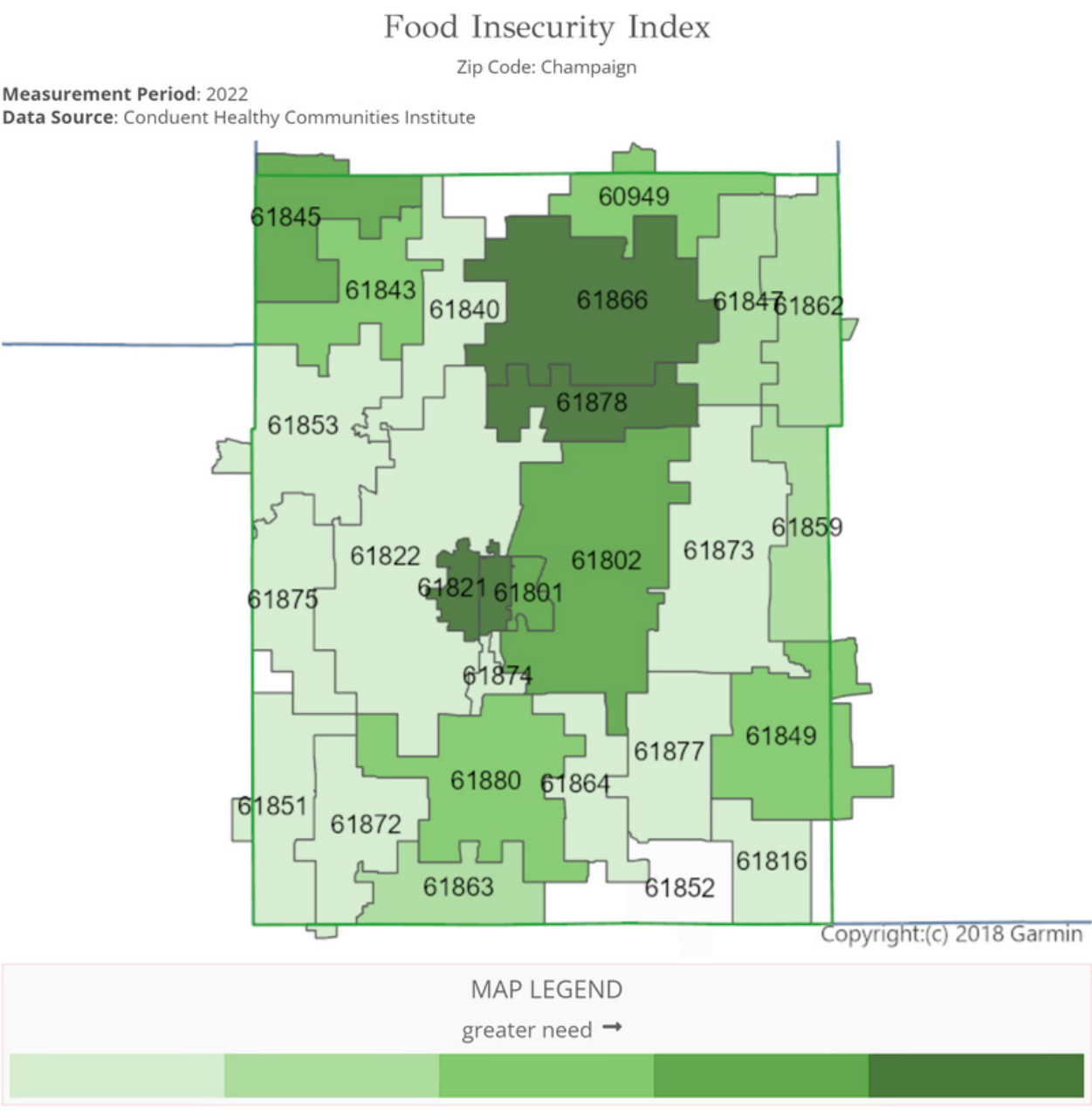
Sources: Social Impact Research Center, 2020; U.S. Census 2020

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 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.



Food Insecurity Index by ZIP Code, Champaign County



Source: The Food Insecurity Index is calculated by Conduent Healthy Communities Institute using data from Claritas, 2022.

View Interactive Data

2 HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

HOMELESSNESS

What it means:

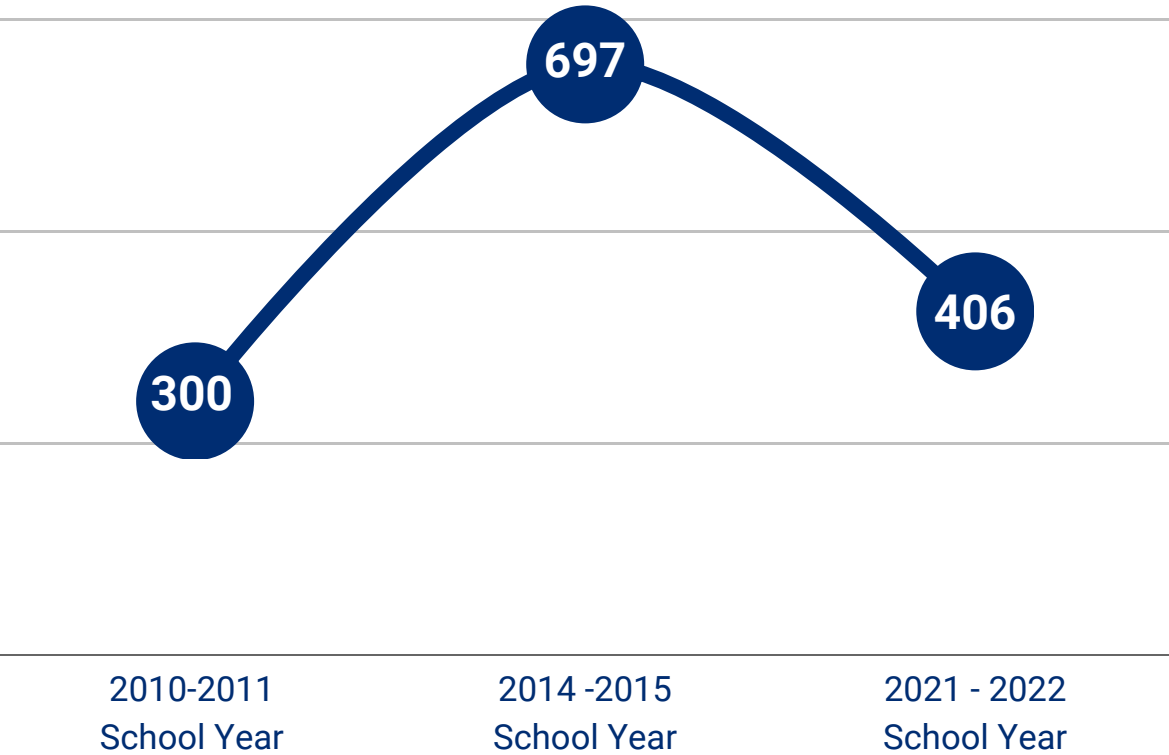
A chronic or temporary inability to maintain or obtain secure housing.

What we know:

Homelessness is a growing challenge in Champaign County, reaching across several groups and populations. Among the most pressing concerns is that in Champaign County many homeless individuals are families and children.

According to Champaign-Ford Regional Office of Education, 406 school-age children were registered as homeless in Champaign County in the 2021-2022 school year. This number is down from the 2015 Community Report, which estimated 697 children were homeless in the county.

Champaign County School-Age Youth
Registered as Homeless



Source: Champaign-Ford Regional Office of Education, 2022

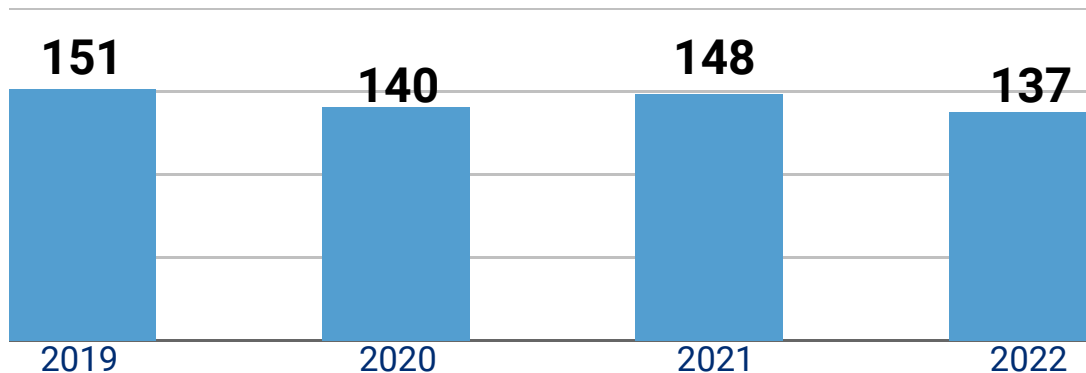
Since the opening of the Emergency Shelter for Families in June 2016, 434 children and 199 adults have been served. There have been 594 exits to safe living situations: rentals, subsidies or with a safe family member/trusted friend. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, 98 people (adults and children) were provided hotel overflow shelter.

Homelessness Point-In-Time Survey, January 27, 2022

137 people across 98 households were experiencing homelessness: 111 people were in emergency shelters, 24 people were in transitional housing, 2 people were unsheltered (living on the street).

- 27 youth under age 18 across 15 households were experiencing homelessness on the night of 1-27-2022.
- 19 total households (57 people), with at least 1 adult and 1 child, were experiencing homelessness.
- 16 people were reported as chronically homeless.
- 53 female, 84 male
- 54 White
- 76 Black or African-American
- 1 American Indian or Alaska Native
- 6 Multiple Races

Point-in-Time Survey People Experiencing Homelessness



Source: Champaign County Continuum of Service Providers to the Homeless Point-in-Time Survey, 2019-2022.

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 well-being. 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. The Emergency Shelter for Families remains consistently full; and additional programming has been added to meet needs of Urbana residents.

Systems of support in Champaign County that provide services for the homeless are strained. Efforts were successful in establishing year-round shelter for men and women, but the strains caused by the pandemic resulted in program changes and new planning taking place to meet the unique needs of the chronically homeless and balance with those ready to leave regain stability and self sufficiency.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

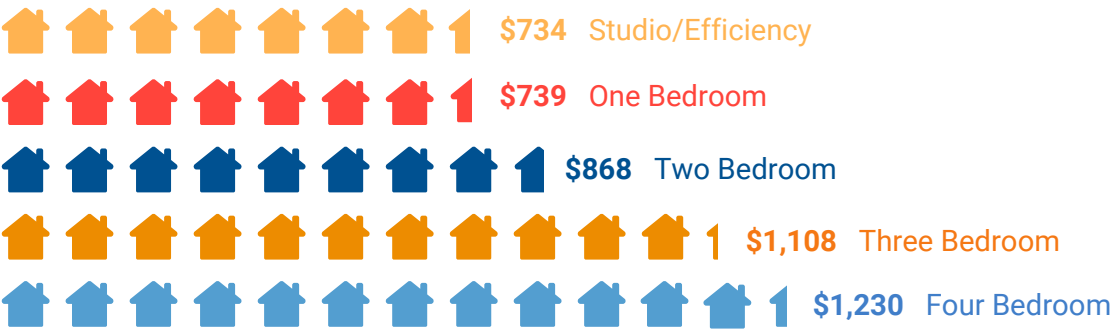
What it means:

Housing affordability refers to the costs renters and homeowners incur. A standard benchmark is spending 30% or less of a household’s monthly income towards housing. The term severely rent burdened means that over 50% of a household’s monthly income is allocated towards housing costs.

What we know:

As of 2021, the local assessed market value or fair market rent of a two-bedroom residence in Champaign County is \$868 per month. However, a full-time employee earning the minimum wage in our community can afford only \$576 per month. An individual making minimum wage would have to work at least 66 hours a week to afford a two-bedroom apartment and utilities. Across Champaign County, renters make up about half of all households; one-third of these households are severely rent-burdened.

Current Fair Market Rent in Champaign County



Fair market rent is shelter rent plus all tenant-paid utilities, except telephones, cable or satellite television service, and internet.

Source: Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), 2021

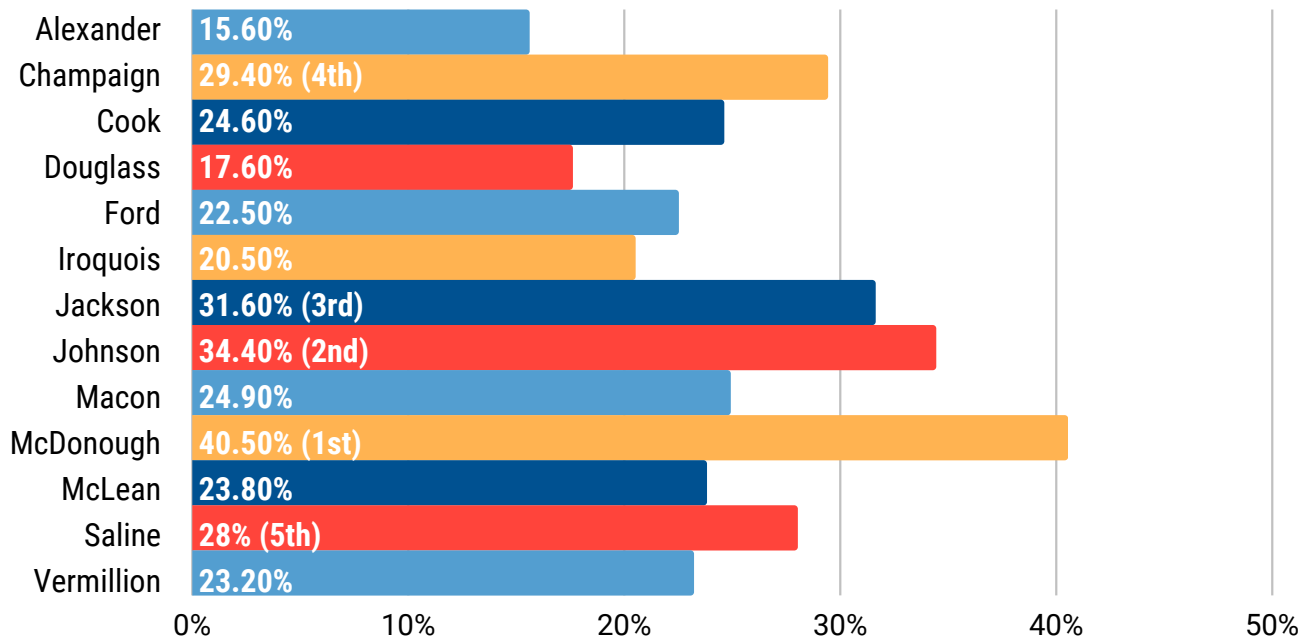
According to reporting from United Way's 211 Help Line, the top need of callers in Champaign County is housing and shelter. Nearly 50% of all requests in the past year were for housing. Other top needs include utilities assistance and mental health care or addiction services.



[View Interactive Data](#)



Severely Rent Burdened Households by County, Illinois



Source: Social Impact Research Center, 2019.

In 2019, 100% of renter households with children below the ALICE Threshold in Champaign County were rent burdened, paying more than 35% of household income to rent. This is higher than the Illinois rent burdened average of 56%.

Source: ALICE in Focus: Children, Illinois Research Brief, 2022

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 in a given month. It is unlikely that these families are able to become self-sufficient or provide themselves with an essential financial safety net to face unexpected life circumstances such as a car repair or a health care expense. Reliance on support from social service programs will continue for many.



3 FAMILY SUPPORT AND CHILD CARE

CHILD CARE

What it means:

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

What we know:

Childcare availability remains a concern today, particularly for low-income families. 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. At the height of COVID-19, many child care providers closed their doors due to safety concerns. Providers who remained open had to reduce capacity limits to guard against the spread of COVID-19, limiting availability to families, especially essential workers. The COVID-19 public health crisis has significantly impacted the lives of working parents trying to balance childcare and work, childcare providers trying to stay open or re-open, and employers trying to determine how and when their working parents can return to work.

Child Care Providers wanting to receive referrals for new children from Child Care Resource and Referral continues to go down. As of June 30, 2022 we were down to 555, June 30, 2021, we were at 603. Child care shortage is a problem everywhere.

**Data from CCRS Director Fall 2022*

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 means:

Childcare 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 in affording and obtaining childcare.

What we know:

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services recommends that childcare services should comprise no more than 10% of household income. In Illinois, the cost of child care is 13% of a two-parent family’s income. For single mothers across the state, child care demands almost 50% of their income. Many families benefit from the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), which helps working parents who qualify, to receive quality daycare at a reduced rate.

Age Group	Average Cost of Centers	Average Cost of Family Child Care
Infants	\$298	\$163
Toddlers	\$280	\$157
2 year olds	\$257	\$162
3 - 5 year olds	\$219	\$149
School-aged Summer/Vacation/Holiday	\$174	\$145

Cost of Childcare
in Champaign
County
per week

Source: Child Care Resource Center, 2022

Why it matters:

When childcare is not available or obtainable at an affordable rate, families are forced to seek informal and unregulated options. As a result, young children can 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 and improved salaries.

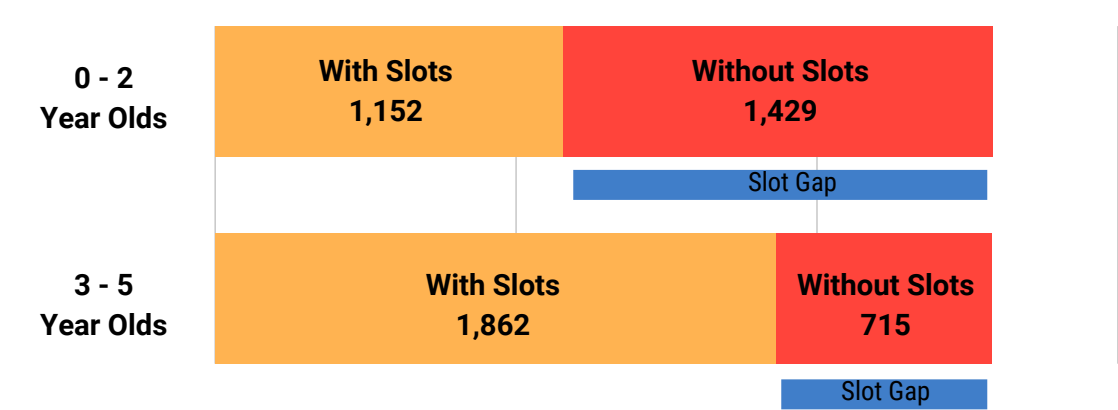


QUALITY EARLY LEARNING AVAILABILITY

What it means

The State of Illinois has identified significant gaps in both the availability and quality of Early Care & Education services as well as areas for greater system alignment. Based on data attained through the IECAM (Illinois Early Childhood Asset Map) has consistently shown high unmet needs in certain communities and counties - Champaign County is one of them. This is called a *slot gap*- a shortage of publicly-funded early care and education enrollment slots compared to the number of eligible children in the community. Currently, in Champaign County there are 2,577 children ages 3,4, and 5; but only 1,862 spaces. More significant is the slot gap for children ages 0-2 years where there are 2,581 eligible and only 1,152 spaces.

Publicly Funded Child Care Availability



Source: Child Care Resource Center, 2022

What we know

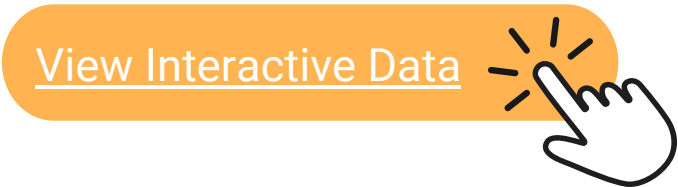
This slot gap exists in the following Early Childhood Block Grant/Illinois School Board of Education and Head Start/Early Head Start Services in Champaign County:

- Prevention Initiative: Home Visiting Programs
- Early Head Start: 10-Hr Center-Based Sessions, Family Child Care, & Home Visiting
- Preschool for All: 2.5 –Hr Center-Based Sessions
- Preschool for All-Expansion: 6-Hr Center-Based Sessions
- Head Start: 10-Hr & 6-Hr Center-Based Sessions, Family Child Care, & Home Visiting

Other services not publicly funded include home visiting for infants, toddlers & pregnant women.

Why it matters

Early Learning Programs provide the important early education young children need so they will be ready to succeed when they start school. They are critical to identifying developmental delays early and providing interventions.



DIAPER COSTS

What it means:

Diaper cost is the financial cost of disposable diapers.

What we know:

An average monthly supply of diapers costs approximately \$80. The only federal assistance program that can be used for diapers is TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families), but TANF has to cover many other expenses, including utilities, rent, clothing, transportation, and other basic needs. Little, if any, money is left over to purchase enough diapers to keep a baby clean, dry, and healthy. Diapers use about 15% of the maximum TANF monthly benefit for a family of 3 (1 parent & 2 children).

United Way of Champaign County's Bottom Line Diaper Bank distributes diapers to local partners that provide them to families in need. In 2021, our partners requested an average of 5,903 diapers each month. In 2022, the average request per month was 7,830, a 33% increase.

Why it matters:

Diapers are as essential to a baby's healthy development as a mother's love. Keeping infants and toddlers clean, dry, and healthy is key to building a solid foundation for all children, but one in three families struggles to provide clean diapers for their baby. Some federally funded childcare assistance programs provide diapers, but others do not and most privately funded child care options require parents to provide adequate diaper supplies. Nationally, 57% of parents experiencing diaper-need, who rely on childcare, said they missed an average of four days of school or work in the past month because they did not have the diapers required to send their child to childcare.



4 EDUCATION

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

What it means:

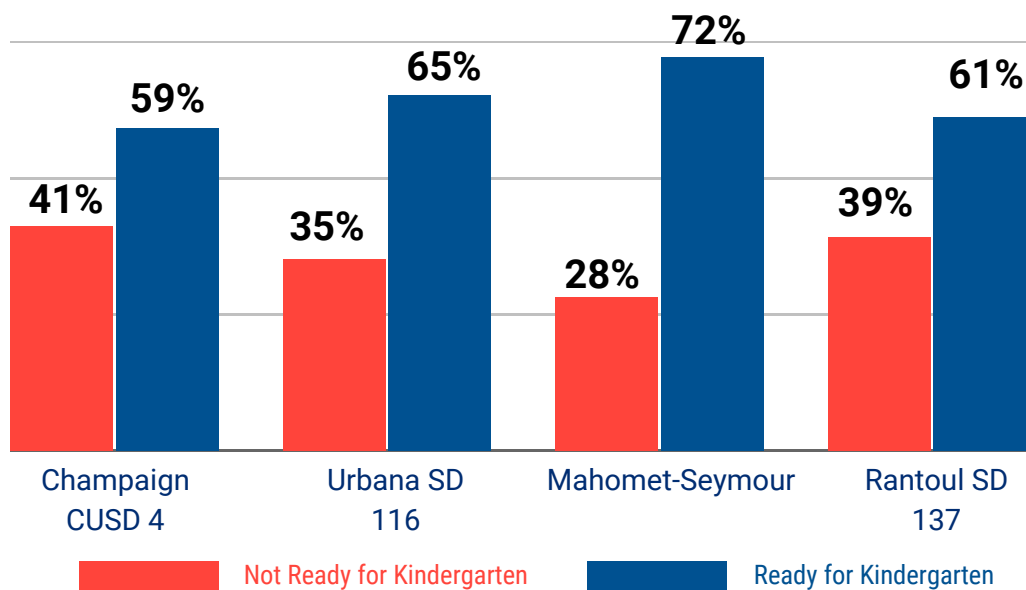
Kindergarten Readiness means that the entering student meets the Illinois Early Learning Standards, which include developmentally appropriate intra-/inter- personal socio-emotional skills, cognitive skills, such as listening to and following directions, gross/fine motor skills, self-care skills, pre-literacy and numeracy skills and is physically healthy.

What we know:

The 2019, Illinois KIDS survey reported 41% of Champaign Unit 4 kindergartners, 28% of Mahomet-Seymour kindergartners, 39% of Rantoul City Schools 137 kindergartners, and 35% of Urbana 116 kindergartners did not demonstrate any readiness in the three areas measured- social/emotional development, language & literacy, and math. Studies show that students who are Black, Hispanic, Native American, and who come from families living below the poverty line are often developmentally and academically behind their peers who are white, Asian, and from affluent families.

The gap is not inherent to a child's cultural, socioeconomic, or geographical background but rather a result of years of economic, housing, cultural, and other policies that have disproportionately hurt people of color and those who work low and middle skill jobs. These policies have created a gap in learning opportunities to learn for the children of these families.

Kindergarten Readiness in Champaign County by School District



Source: Illinois Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS), 2019

Why it matters:

A child's academic success directly correlates with their kindergarten readiness. A survey of Champaign-Urbana kindergarten and pre-K teachers agrees with national research: social-emotional skills are the most important skills. Factors impacting readiness include family involvement with the child's education, adequate support and training in parenting skills, 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

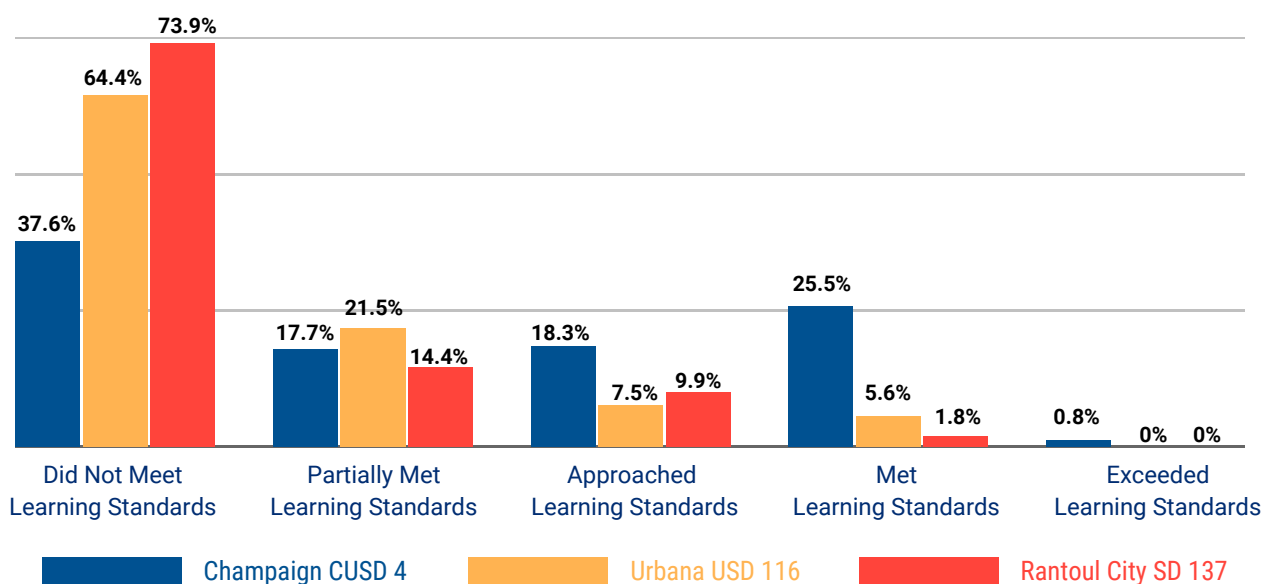
What it means:

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

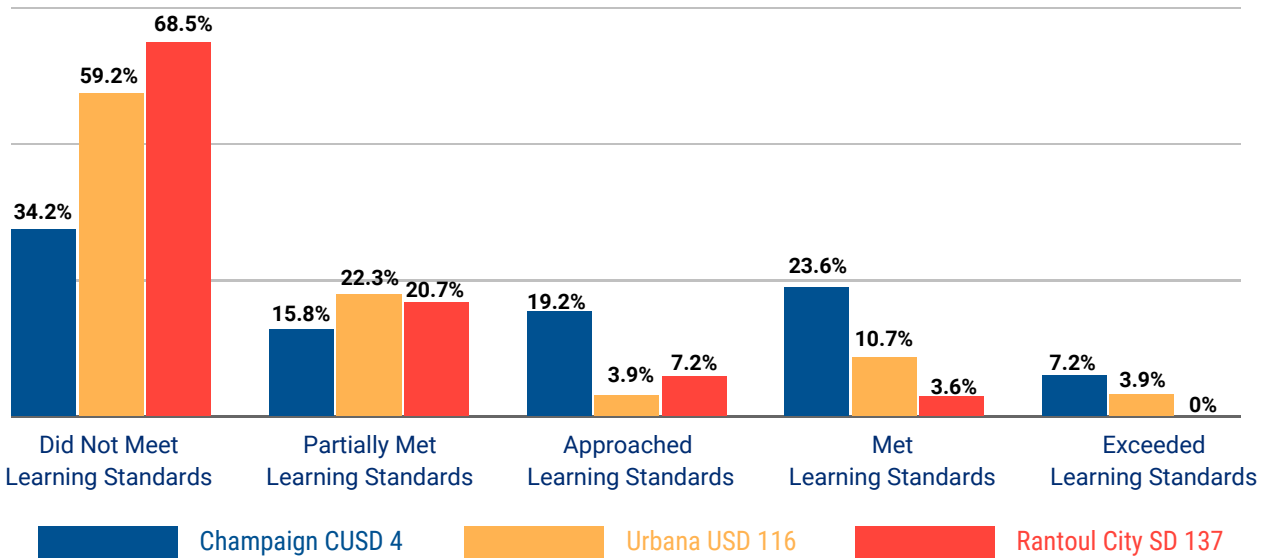
What we know:

74% of Unit 4 and 93% of Urbana 116 third graders are not meeting learning standards in third grade English Language Arts. In Rantoul City Schools 137, 98% of third graders are not meeting learning standards in English Language Arts. 69% of Unit 4 and 85% of Urbana 116 third graders are not meeting Math learning standards. In Rantoul City Schools 96% of third graders are not meeting Math learning standards.

3rd Graders' English Language Arts Achievement Scores, by School District



3rd Graders' Math Achievement Scores, by School District



Source: ISBE School Report card, 2021

Local Area High School Drop-Out Rates

Champaign CUSD 4	3.9%
Urbana SD 116	3.2%
Rantoul Township HSD 193	5.0%

Chronic Absenteeism

Missing at least 10 percent of days in a school year for any reason, including excused and unexcused absences.

Champaign CUSD 4	26%
Urbana SD 116	26%
Rantoul City SD 137	47%

Why it matters:

Fundamental reading and math skills are essential for success 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 career. Success in education is positively correlated to gainful employment. In addition, a comprehensive education is the best safety net against poverty.

Third grade is a benchmark year for assessment. K-3rd children are learning how to read. After third grade, children read to learn content. Studies have shown that if a student is not reading at grade level by the end of third grade they will continue to be behind.

5 HEALTH AND WELL BEING

HEALTHCARE ACCESS

What it means:

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

What we know:

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. Health care clinics outside the mainstream hospital systems remain crucial, because an estimated 7% of Champaign County residents remain uninsured.

Compared to the rest of Illinois, Champaign County has fewer primary care providers per 100,000 community residents than the state average. This means access to primary provider services is more difficult to obtain. Primary care services are the gateway to specialty care and chronic disease management.

		Champaign County	Illinois
Primary Care Providers per 100,000 residents	2017	1,050	1,250
	2019	1,000	1,230

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

Source: CUPHD, 2022.

Why it matters:

Good overall health depends upon regular physicals and preventative care. Lack of 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.

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

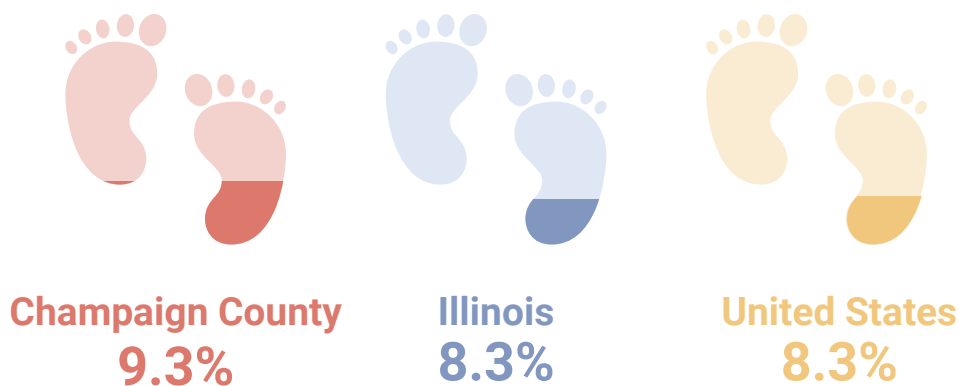
What it is:

Maternal and child health (MCH) programs focus on health issues concerning women, children and families, such as access to recommended prenatal and well-child care, infant and maternal mortality prevention, maternal and child mental health, newborn screening, child immunizations, child nutrition and services for children with special health care needs.

What it tells us:

One indicator of comprehensive prenatal care is birth weight. Low birth weight is a registered weight of less than 5 pounds 8 ounces and often means added health risks requiring close monitoring. Additionally, low birth weight babies are at increased risk for long-term health conditions which require follow-up over time. State and National low birth rate averages have increased just slightly across the board the past few years. Unfortunately, in Champaign County low birth weight remains a concern among newborns, with a rate higher than both State and National averages.

Percent of Live Births that are Low Birth Weight



Source: Illinois Department of Public Health, 2020.

Why it matters:

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

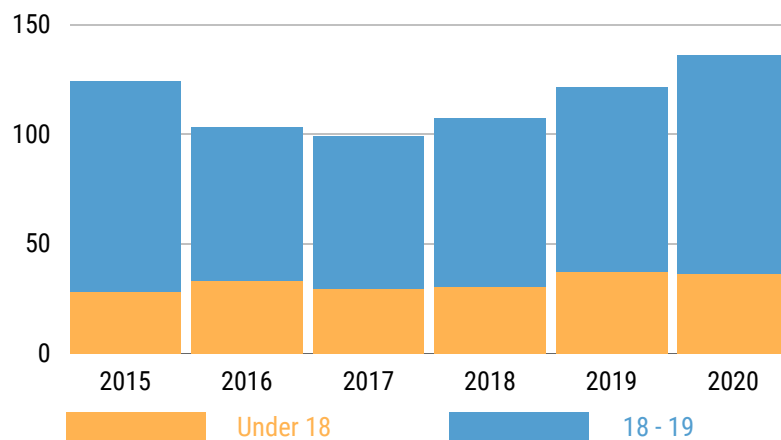
TEEN PREGNANCY

What it means:

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

What we know:

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. In 2020, 6.4% of all births in Champaign County were teen births. This was higher than the state percent of 4.1%.



Source: Illinois Department of Public Health, 2020.

Teen Births by Age in Champaign County

Teen Births and the Pandemic

Urbana (zip codes 61801 & 61802) had a **180% increase** of Teen Births in 2020 compared to 2019. Rantoul (zip code 61866) had a **57% increase** in 2021 compared to 2019, and a 450% increase of Teen Births in 2021 compared to 2020.

None of the other communities within Champaign County reflected a substantial increase in Teen Births during this time period.

Black or African American Teen Births increased by 46% in 2020 compared to 2019 and accounted for 30 of the 59 (51%) total Teen Births that occurred in 2020-2021 in Champaign County. Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity Teen Births increased by 43% in 2020 compared to 2019 and accounted for 19 of the 59 (32%) total Teen Births that occurred in 2020-2021 in Champaign County.

Source: IHA Inpatient State Data 2018-2021.

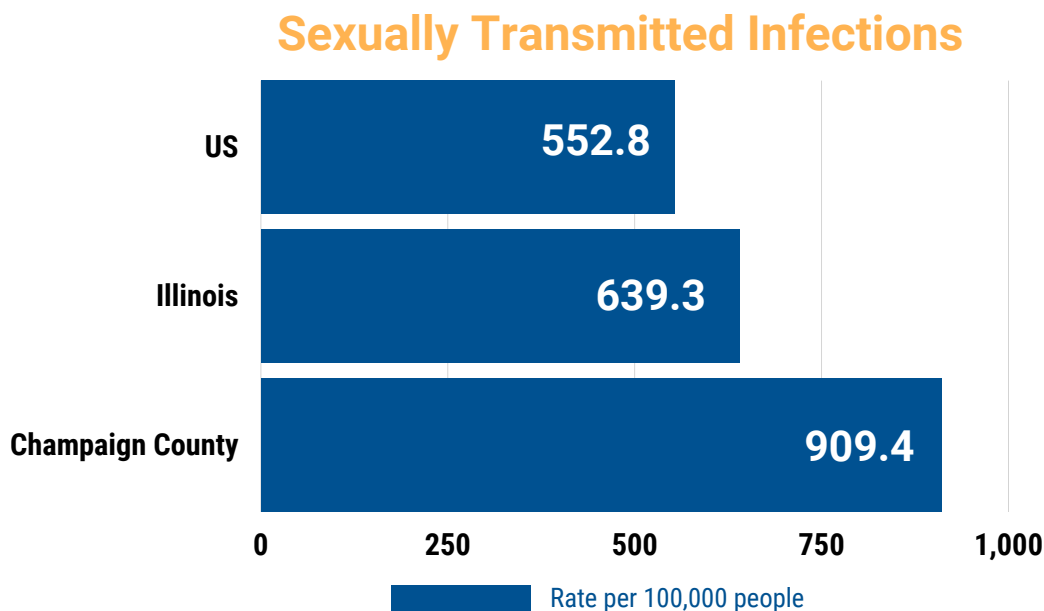
Why it matters:

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 for their child. As a result, community support and education on child development is essential for young parents with infants.

FACTORS AFFECTING HEALTH

What it means:

The graph below illustrates the prevalence of sexually transmitted infections per 100,000 people. Sexually transmitted infections are spread primarily through person-to-person contact.



Source: County Health Rankings, 2022

What we know:

The prevalence of sexually transmitted infections (STI's) including AIDS/HIV is a critical public health concern. If left untreated STI's may cause complications such as pelvic inflammatory disease, ectopic pregnancies, endometriosis, infertility, adverse pregnancy outcomes, neonatal and infant infections, cancer, stigma, blindness, and more. Champaign County's rate of STI cases reported is significantly higher than the state average. However, the rates of HIV/AIDS in Champaign County is lower compared to other counties.

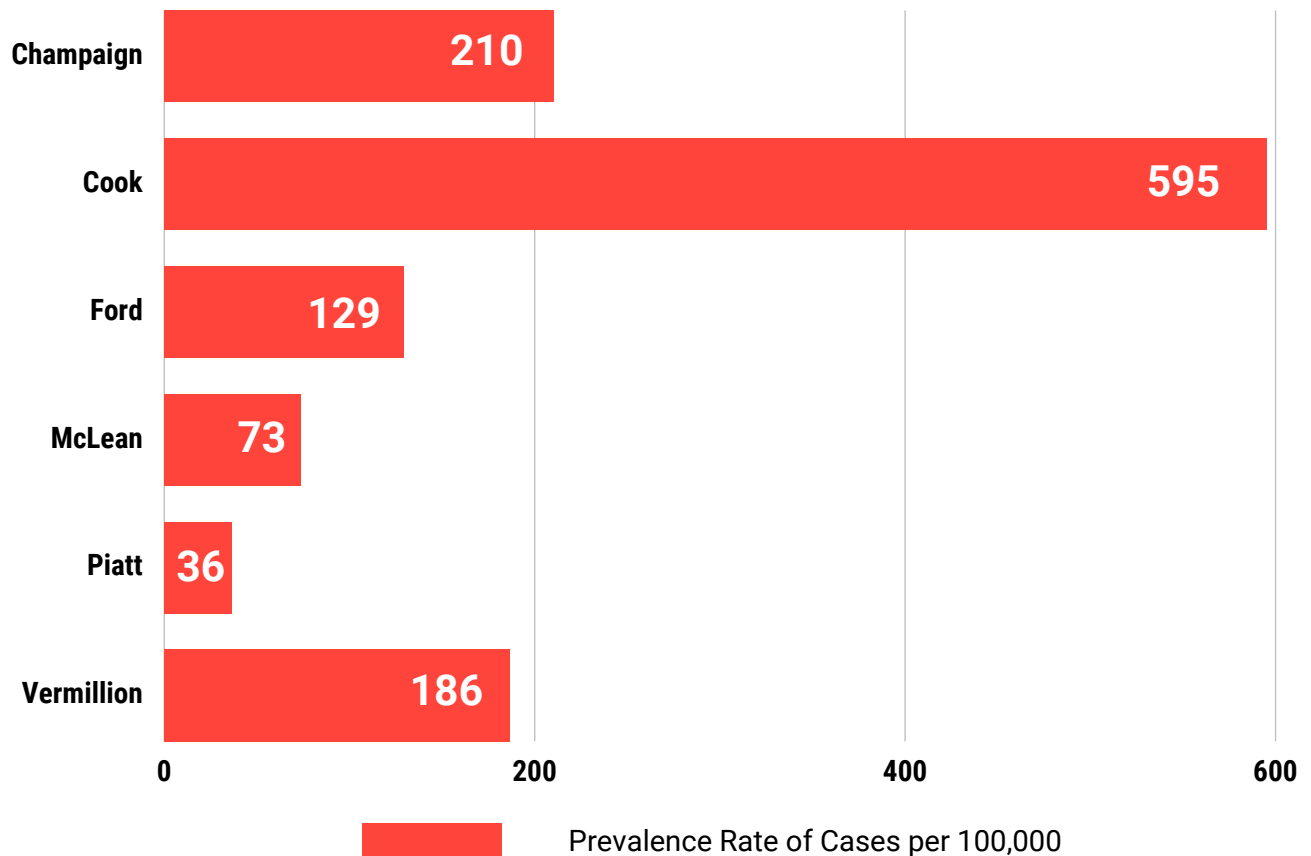
Why it matters:

Comprehensive health education efforts are in place regarding treatment and prevention of the transmission of STI's. Additionally, breaking down data helps to identify demographics where increases can be identified; allowing for strategic and tailored education, messaging and treatment.

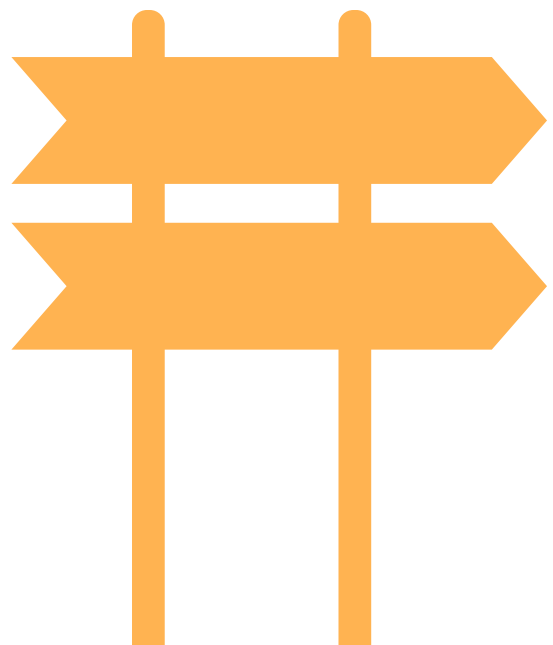
According to the CDC, from 2014-2018 congenital syphilis increased 126.7% among Black women. This was 6.4 times higher than the rate among white women. Rates of gonorrhea and chlamydia were also 6.9 and 3.7 times higher, respectively in black women than white women.

Source: CDC, 2020.

County Rates of Residents 13 years and Older Living with HIV



Source: National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, 2019.



6 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES & CHILD WELL-BEING

ACCESS AND CAPACITY

What it means:

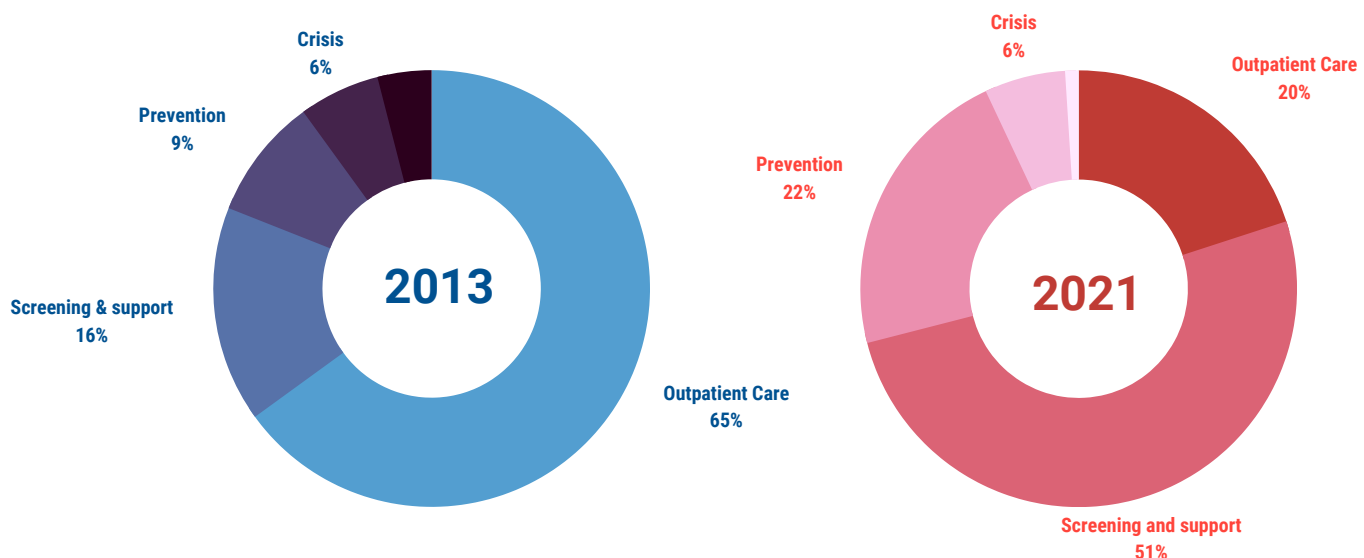
Access and capacity refers to the number of people who are able to receive the mental health services they need and the ability of service providers to adequately meet clients' needs.

What we know:

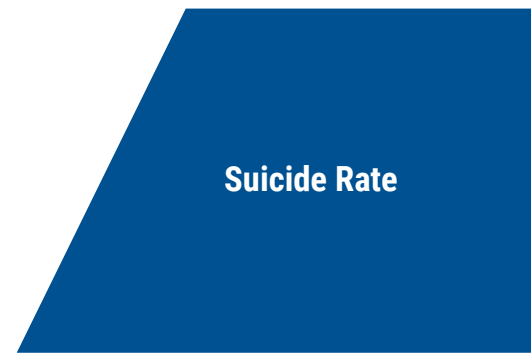
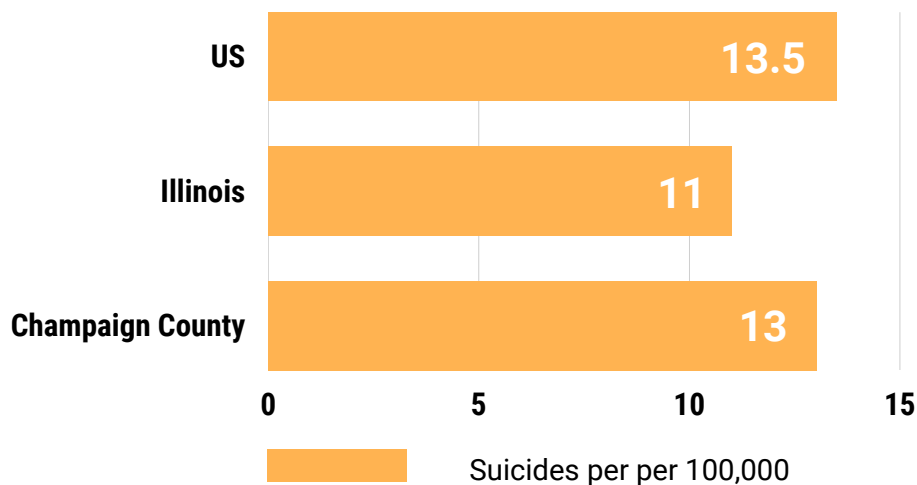
Mental health conditions can affect anyone, anywhere, at any time. The 2015 Community Report conveyed a growing concern for unmet mental health needs. Today in 2022, the need for comprehensive and accessible mental health care continues to grow. The ratio of mental health providers per 100,000 continues to improve. Recently the ratio of population to mental health providers has lowered from 400:1 in 2019 to 340:1 in 2021. However, access still remains an issue, especially for many of the most vulnerable in our community.

The actual number of mental health providers accepting certain insurances and serving those without insurance/sliding scale has not kept up with the demand. The use of telehealth services for mental healthcare became mainstream during the COVID-19 pandemic and continues to reduce barriers to mental health assistance. Champaign County's suicide rate, which is at 13%, remains higher than the state rate of 11%. The drug overdose rate has increased significantly in Champaign County compared to the state with a rate of 14% in 2018 (21% state) and 21% in 2020 (24% state).

Types of Mental Health Services Provided in Champaign County

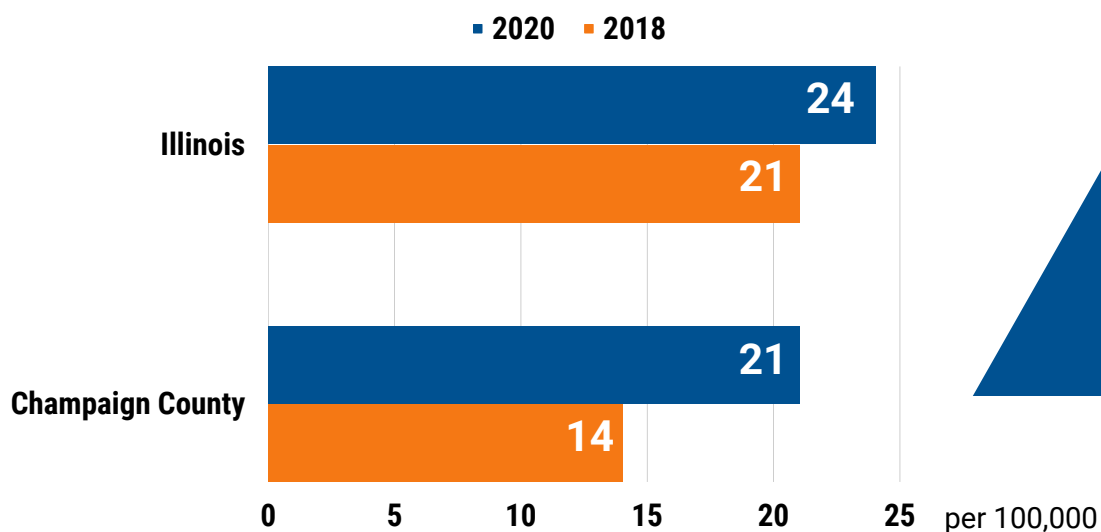


Source: Champaign County Mental Health Board, 2013, 2021



988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Dial 988

The 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is a hotline for individuals in crisis or for those looking to help someone else. To speak with a trained listener, call 988. Visit 988lifeline.org for crisis chat services or for more information.



Why it matters:

The implications of untreated mental health disabilities are severe; unnecessary disability, unemployment, substance abuse, homelessness, incarceration, and suicide are the most prevalent indicators of untreated mental health conditions. 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.

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

What it means:

Child Abuse and Neglect is at a minimum, any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker, which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation (including sexual abuse as determined under section 111), or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm (Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act).

What we know:

Childhood Abuse and Neglect (CAN) and other Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) may cause high levels of chronic stress (i.e., toxic stress) that rewire the brain's developing architecture (i.e., connections between cognitive, emotional, and social development). United Way of Champaign County's Community 2020 Survey found Child Abuse and Neglect to be the top reported community issue, overall. Mental health ranked third. Similarly, the Champaign County Community Health Plan (IPlan) found Child Abuse and Neglect to be the second highest community concern. Mental Health was the top concern.

Rate of Local Children Experiencing Abuse and Neglect

The table below shows the number of indicated victims of abuse and neglect in Champaign County. "Indicated" means that credible evidence was found to substantiate a claim of abuse and neglect.

Year	Number	Rate	Statewide Average
2019	331	24.6/1000	19.1/1000
2020	426	31.6/1000	20.7/1000

Source: <https://riskandreach.erikson.edu/illinois-map/>

Recurring Maltreatment

Of all children who were victims of a substantiated maltreatment reported during the fiscal year, this chart shows the percentage that were victims of another substantiated maltreatment report within 12 months.

Year	Children with Substantiated Report	Children with another Substantiated Report within 12 months	Rate
2018	625	76	12.3%
2019	584	81	13.9%
2020	765	106	13.9%
2021	781	124	15.9%

Source: www.cfrc.illinois.edu/data-center.php

Why it matters:

All children in Champaign County deserve to grow up in a supportive, loving home. This is critical if we wish for every child to achieve their full potential. The dual risks of child abuse and neglect and mental health issues threaten the well-being of children and can have significant negative long-term impacts.

Children who experience CAN and other ACEs are more likely to engage in risky behaviors in adolescence and have health problems as adults. This includes not completing high school, higher occurrences of crime, high suicide occurrence, teen pregnancies, substance abuse and the inability to secure and maintain a job and healthy relationships.

See the next chapter for detailed information on how United Way of Champaign County is working to address child abuse and neglect in our community.



7 VIOLENCE

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

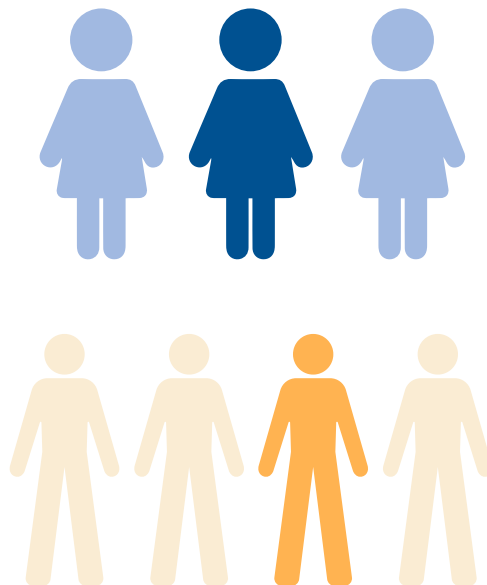
What it means:

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 physical or psychological.

What we know:

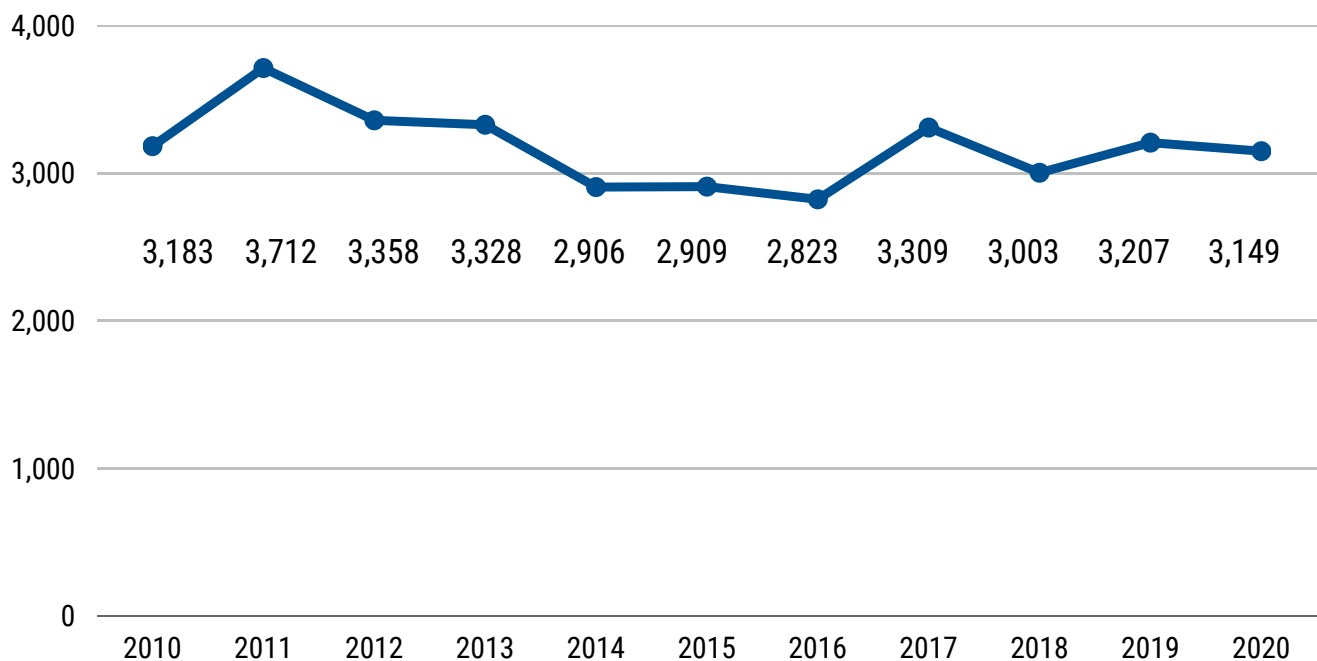
Reported domestic violence incidents in Champaign County have remained consistently high since the spike in 2017. Many incidents of domestic violence go unreported. Research indicates only 60% of incidents are reported.

About 1 in 3 women and about 1 in 4 men report having experienced severe physical violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime.



Source: CDC, 2022.

Reported Domestic Violence Incidents in Champaign County



Source: Illinois State Police Reports, 2020.

During the pandemic, Courage Connection, local provider of domestic violence prevention, education and support, assisted in filing 243 orders of protection and provided 914 hours of direct service to community members in need.

The percentage of clients who have turned to Courage Connection with physical abuse as their primary issue has grown from 47% in 2019 to 59% in 2021. (News-Gazette, January 16, 2022.)

Petitions filed with Champaign County court for orders of protection

2019	878
2020	1,044
2021	1,098



Source: <https://nnedv.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/15th-Annual-DV-Counts-Report-Illinois-Summary.pdf>

Annually, the National Network to End Domestic Violence conducts a count of services from identified domestic violence programs in Illinois. On September 10, 2020, victims in Illinois made 170 requests for services that could not be provided because programs lacked the resources to meet victims' needs.

Approximately 39% of these unmet requests were for housing or emergency shelter, even though the percent of programs providing hotel/motel stay, childcare, and transportation increased in the state in 2021 compared to 2020.

Source: <https://nnedv.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/16th-Annual-Domestic-Violence-Counts-Illinois-Summary-FINAL.pdf>

Services Provided in Illinois, 9/10/2020

% of Programs Providing Services

Court Accompaniment or Legal Advocacy	72%
Transportation	35%
Hotel/Motel Stay	25%
Childcare/Daycare	5%

Source: National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2020.

Services Provided in Illinois, 9/9/2021

% of Programs Providing Services

Hotel/Motel Stay	67%
Transportation	57%
Childcare/Daycare	56%
Court Accompaniment or Legal Advocacy	48%
Financial Literacy/Budgeting	30%
Children's Support or Advocacy	24%
Bilingual Advocacy	4%

Source: National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2021.

Why it matters:

Domestic violence impacts one out of every three women and one out of seven men 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 adults and children—today and tomorrow.

COMMUNITY VIOLENCE

The chart below demonstrates the increase in shooting incidents in the metro areas of Champaign, Urbana and the area covered by the Champaign County Sheriff's Office.

What we know:

Over the past few years, our community has seen a precipitous rise in violence. In addition to the chart below, of particular concern is the rise in violence among our youth and young adults. In 2018, there were 302 youth admitted to short-term locked juvenile detention facilities in Champaign County. About 28% of detention admissions were for a violent offense (N = 84). This translates to a rate of 4.91 violent offenses per 1,000 youth ages 10-17 in Champaign County, which is higher than the rate for the state of Illinois (1.83 violent offense admissions per 1,000 youth ages 10-17).

Source: <https://vpp.icjia.cloud/Appendix4CountyReports.pdf>

Shooting Incidents

Year	City of Champaign	City of Urbana	Champaign County Sheriff's Office
2019	100	32	14
2020	189	53	30
2021	259	115	30
2022	129	44	16

Source: City of Champaign Police Department, City of Urbana Police Department, Champaign County Sheriff's Office, 2022.

Why it matters:

According to the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, "Although less commonly recognized, exposure to community violence, which includes domestic violence, exposure to violence, and bullying, also can result in serious long-term negative outcomes for children and youth. Community violence often is unpredictable and experiencing or witnessing violence in one's community can increase fear, distrust, and feelings that communities, homes, and schools are unsafe. Similar to experiencing direct victimization, exposure to violence is associated with decreases in educational achievement; increases in internalizing behaviors (anxiety disorder, Major Depressive Disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder [PTSD]), externalizing behaviors (oppositional defiant disorder, conduct disorder), and trauma symptomology; feelings of anger and blame; and heightened risk for future exposure to violence."

Gun crime has continued to be an issue, and the Champaign Police have shared new data on the number of young people involved. As of May 2022, of those 18 and younger, 14 gun charges have been filed against them. A total of 59 have been filed so far in 2022. This compares to 33 charges in 2020, which made up a quarter of the city's 120 gun charges filed. The numbers did drop off in 2021, with 20 gun charges being filed of the 150 total charges. (FOX Illinois, June 3, 2022)

8

EMPLOYMENT & THE ECONOMY

UNEMPLOYMENT

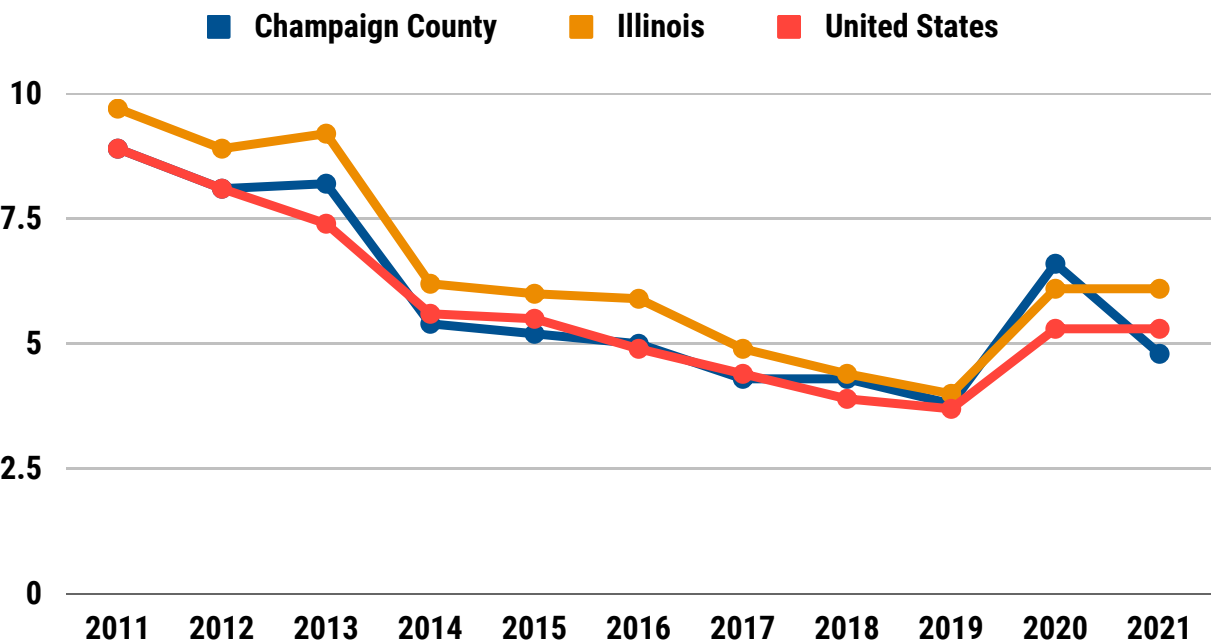
What it is:

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

What it tells us:

2020, the unemployment rate in Champaign County increased significantly to 6.6% from 3.8% in 2019. This can be directly credited to the COVID-19 pandemic job crisis. Fortunately, the county's unemployment rate decreased in 2021 to 4.8%.

Unemployment Rates, 2011 - 2021



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2011-2021, U.S Department of Labor, 2011-2021.

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.

OCCUPATIONS

What it means:

In Champaign County types of employment present and annual mean wage by occupation.

What we know:

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.

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.

There is a current workforce shortage affecting many industries in our community and nationally. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, over 10,000 Champaign County workers left the workforce between March and April of 2020. This is not totally due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A combination of 200,000 workers leaving the state between 2013 and 2019, and an aging population who retired has lead to a shortage of workers. Some occupations hardest hit were jobs in leisure, hospitality and retail.

For more information on workforce in Champaign County please visit the [Chamber of Commerce website](#).

Annual Mean Wage By Occupation

Industry	Annual Wage
Food Preparation & Serving	\$26,270
Personal Care & Services	\$32,670
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	\$33,410
Healthcare Support	\$32,610
Sales & Related	\$46,280
Farming, Fishing, & Forestry	\$36,780
Transportation & Material Moving	\$41,830
Production	\$41,710
Office & Administrative Support	\$43,400
Protective Service	\$57,260
Community & Social Service	\$52,550
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, & Media	\$58,890
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	\$54,640
Education, Training, & Library	\$58,050
Construction & Extraction	\$70,430
Healthcare Practitioner & Technical Employee	\$82,680
Business & Financial Operations	\$80,390
Life, Physical, & Social Science	\$77,290
Architecture & Engineering	\$86,820
Computer & Mathematical	\$93,320
Management	\$125,330
Legal	\$120,740

[View Interactive Data](#)



Source: US Census Bureau 2020, Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2020, Champaign County Chamber of Commerce Trends Report, 2022.



WHERE WE

ARE HEADING

Key Issues Going Forward

United for Equity

Community Essentials

Early Grade Level Success

Victory over Violence

Child Well-Being

United for Equity

Addressing systemic issues to increase opportunity for ALL

United Way is committed to building a more equitable Champaign County. In 2022, United Way awarded \$196,000 in grants to a cohort of local programs which address inequities in our community. Each grant program is working to advance one or more of the following areas:

Create Community Awareness
Create More Firsts

Encourage Collaboration
Break Down Barriers to Success



Partnership

United Way has intentionally partnered with programs that are led by members of the community they seek to serve, or programs that have demonstrated a deep history of partnership with the community served. 2/3 of clients served by United for Equity grant partners are Black, Indigenous, or People of Color.



Building Leadership

Nonprofit leadership must continue to diversify in order to better serve the community. United Way is working to build strong pathways for underrepresented populations to enter into decision-making roles at nonprofits, with a special emphasis on Board of Director positions. Additionally, we are in the process of establishing a mentoring program for Black nonprofit leaders.



Elevating Marginalized Voices

The voices of those closest to the challenge must be heard if any program wants to make progress on a community issue. All United Way Community Change grants require that the organization has an advisory team made up of program participants.

Community Essentials

Working together to help people meet their needs

United Way is committed to providing long-term support for Community Essentials. In 2022, United Way awarded \$663,000 in grants to local programs to provide essential support across the community. Each grant program is working towards one of the following Goals:

Help people meet their physical needs
Assist people with accessing and navigating complex human service systems



Our Strategy

The framework for Community Essentials ensures we can support our most vulnerable neighbors experiencing the hardest of times through an efficient and effective safety net of services with minimal to no barriers.

Early Grade Level Success

Investing big in our smallest community members

Beginning July 1, 2021, United Way invested \$700,000 in grants to local programs working to improve Early Grade Level Success across Champaign County. Each grant program is working towards the same three goals:

Increase the number of students demonstrating kindergarten readiness by 10%
Increase the number of low-income and Black male students meeting Math and English Language Arts standards by 10%
Decrease chronic absenteeism by 10%



Our Strategy

Our strategy is comprehensive, starting before birth and supporting children and families through third grade. Our grants and collaborations provide quality early childhood programs and supports, developmental screenings and early intervention programming, Summer programming to prepare both children and parents for kindergarten, volunteer programs in our schools, and after-school and summertime academic support programs for K-3 students.

Victory over Violence

Stop violence and promote safety

United Way, WCIA, U of I and other partners are partnering for the Victory over Violence initiative. Together we will support proven strategies which will reduce community violence - and we will implement those right here in Champaign County by investing over \$390,000.



Our Strategy

We will stop violence and promote safety through street-based violence interruption, trauma and emotional supports, family engagement, and wrap-around supports. Through a variety of programs and services, we will give kids - especially those from under-resourced neighborhoods or living in high-poverty conditions, the help they need and deserve. Our strategy also includes support for trauma recovery services to help young people heal from exposure to firearm violence.

Child Well-Being

Preventing maltreatment and providing trauma-informed care

On December 3, 2021, United Way awarded \$450,000 in grants to local programs working to improve Child Well-Being across Champaign County. Each program is working towards at least one of the following Goals:

Fewer children ages 0-5 will experience maltreatment

Children in substitute care will not experience additional or repeated maltreatment

Parents & caregivers in zip codes 61821 and 61802 will have increased access to supports

The community will have increased capacity to help children and adults who have experienced trauma

Children and adults who have experienced trauma will have increased support available



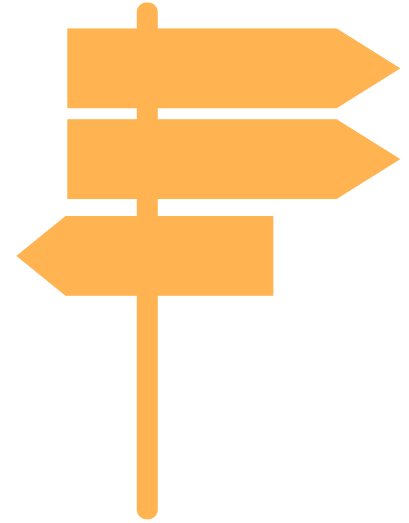
Our Strategy

Our grant partnerships collaborate with each other to prevent maltreatment and provide the best care to those who have experienced harm. Our grant work is focused on building strong, resilient families and strengthening the six protective factors that are proven to reduce child abuse and neglect.

A Call to Action

Solving these critical societal needs requires the help of all members of Champaign County—from social service agencies, the business community, higher education, community members, and United Way.

Which direction will you take?



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 issues 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, and convey these to funders, staff, and peer agencies.
- Explore new ways to collaborate and share data 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.
- Take a strategic look at your organization's services. Contemplate going about your work and meeting community needs differently.

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 early grade level success, mental health services, and child well-being.
- Develop and grow innovative new ways for the community to GIVE, ADVOCATE and VOLUNTEER.

United Way's Three Part Plan for Community Impact

Community Change Grants

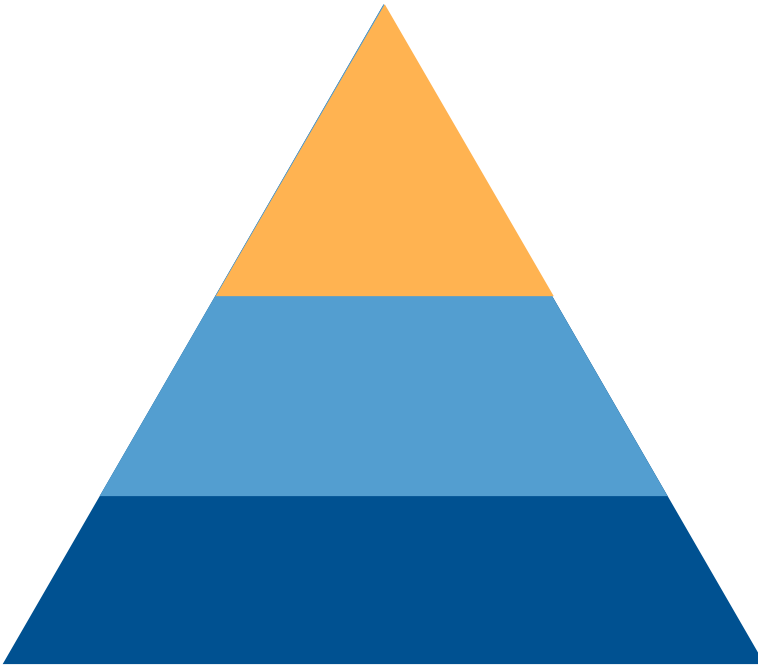
Highly-targeted, multi-year funding to programs and collaborations that are working alongside United Way to solve our community's most challenging problems in health, education, and financial stability. Together, we are fighting for solutions to longstanding issues and removing barriers that prevent our community from thriving.

Community Building Work

United Way brings nonprofits, businesses, government, and people together to innovate and find new solutions to community problems.

Community Essentials Grants

Food. Water. Housing. Healthcare. Clothing. Identification. Access to technology. These are the critical things people need to thrive in our world today. With 45% of our households struggling to make ends meet, our community must have a strong safety net. United Way is committed to providing long-term support for community essentials. Together we can prevent crisis, provide stability, and support those navigating a complex social service system.



Our New Approaches

The COVID-19 pandemic and important anti-racism activism in 2020 brought difficult truths to light. Persistent, systemic discrimination, as well as many of our neighbors' tenuous financial situations, were both laid bare. Too often, many of us forget or ignore these realities.

In Champaign County, Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed (ALICE) households have increased significantly. Gun violence is as high as it has ever been. Child abuse and neglect cases are among the highest in Illinois. The achievement gap among students of color is alarming and growing. Demands on social services have only grown, and reserves and funding have been drained. The three-part approach to community impact that we described on the previous page is a significant change in our funding and partnership strategy. Our model is evolving, and we want to be sure you understand that strategy. It is necessary. It will increase our impact. And it will allow United Way of Champaign County to be:

COMMUNITY-ORIENTED

We will focus on what our community needs rather than focusing on particular agencies, organizations, or programs. That will help us better understand and address systemic challenges which hinder progress, growth, and better quality of life.

FORWARD-LOOKING

We will better anticipate and prepare for emerging and future needs.

NIMBLE We will better address critical needs more quickly and pivot to new, higher-impact approaches more readily.

EQUITY-ORIENTED

We will work with more programs that serve diverse communities and provide new capacity-building opportunities for African American- and Black-led nonprofits. We will also strive to draw at least 35 percent of our board and committee membership from communities that have been marginalized historically.

TRANSPARENT

We will marry data, evidence, best practices, and community sentiment to create easy-to-understand, well-defined requests for proposals and impact reports. That will put more dollars than ever before into Champaign County-based organizations and make our funding decisions easier to understand for partners and donors alike.

PARTNERSHIP-ORIENTED

We will consistently ask two fundamental questions: Who in our community is in crisis, vulnerable, and disproportionately affected by current circumstances? And how can we fund and create partnerships that will best alleviate that?

References

- Anderson, F. (2022, May 4). As a national labor shortage drags on, local businesses and workers suffer consequences of the “Great Resignation”. Illinois Newsroom. <https://illinoisnewsroom.org/as-national-labor-shortage-drags-on-local-businesses-and-workers-suffer-consequences-of-the-great-resignation/>
- Carle Hospital Foundation. 2021. Community Report Card. Food Insecurity Index 2021.
- Center for Disease Control and Prevention. 2021. Fast Facts: Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect. <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/childabuseandneglect/fastfact.html>
- Champaign County Chamber of Commerce. 2022. Trends Report 2022.
- Champaign County Continuum of Service Providers to the Homeless. 2022. Point-in-Time IL-503 Champaign, Urbana, Rantoul/Champaign County CoC 2019-2022.
- Champaign County Mental Health Board. 2013. Annual Report 2013.
- Champaign County Mental Health Board 2021. Annual Report 2021.
- Champaign County Public Health Department (CUPHD). 2020. Community Health Improvement Plan: 2021-2023.
- Champaign County Sheriff’s Office. 2022. Annual Report. http://www.co.champaign.il.us/sheriff/pdf/2022_CCSO_AnnualReport.pdf
- Child Care Resource Service (CCRS). 2020. A Look Back at FY 2020. <https://ccrs.illinois.edu/files/2021/05/A-Look-Back-at-FY2020-1.pdf>
- Child Care Resource Service (CCRS). 2022. Cost of Child Care in Champaign County 2022.
- County Health Rankings and Roadmaps. 2022. Illinois: Champaign County 2022.
- Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). 2021. Current Fair Market Rent in Champaign County 2021.
- Erikson Institute. 2019. Illinois Risk and Reach Report: Interactive Map. <https://riskandreach.erikson.edu/illinois-map/>
- Hensley, E. (2022, June 3). CPD data shows amount of gun charges issued to minors. FOX Illinois. <https://foxillinois.com/news/local/cpd-data-shows-amount-of-gun-charges-issued-to-minors>
- Hernandez, D.J. (2011). Double jeopardy: how third-grade reading skills and poverty influence high school graduation. Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV). 2019. 2019 Domestic Service Statistics. <http://www.ilcadv.org/resources/statistics/FY14DataSheet.pdf>
- Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA). 2020. Statewide Violence Prevention Plan:2020-2024 Appendix #4 County Reports. <https://vpp.icjia.cloud/Appendix4CountyReports.pdf>
- Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES).2020. Illinois Labor Force Participation: 2020 Progress Report. https://www2.illinois.gov/ides/xxlmi/Annual%20Report/Illinois_Labor_Force_Participation_2020.PDF
- Illinois Department of Employment Security (IDES). 2021-2022. Local Area Unemployment Statistics.
- Illinois Department of Human Services. 2020. FY2020 Illinois Child Care Program Report. <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/OneNetLibrary/27897/documents/Child%20Care/4184-FY20-ChildCareReport-ADA.pdf>
- Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). 2011-2019. Birth Statistics, Illinois Teen Births by County.
- Illinois Health and Hospital Association (IHA). 2021. Inpatient State Data 2018-2021.

Illinois Kindergarten Individual Development Survey (KIDS). 2019-2020. Illinois Kindergarten Individual Survey Report: A Look at Kindergarten Readiness.

Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). 2021. Illinois Report Card 2020-2021.

Illinois State Police. 2015-2020. Crime in Illinois Annual Crime Report.

Institute for Law & Policy Planning. 2013. Champaign County Criminal Justice System Assessment: Final Report.
http://www.co.champaign.il.us/JailAssessment/ILPP_CHAMPAIGN_COUNTY_FINAL_REPORT_09-24-13.pdf.

National Center for Health Statistics. 2020. Vital Birth Statistics.

National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention. 2019. HIV Prevalence by County.

National Conference of State Legislatures. 2022. Maternal and Child Health. <https://www.ncsl.org/research/health/maternal-and-child-health-overview.aspx>

National Diaper Bank Network. 2021. Illinois Diaper Facts 2020.
https://nationaldiaperbanknetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/2020_State_Diaper_Facts_3_2021_Illinois_V1.pdf

National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNDEV). 2021. Illinois state summary 2020.
<https://nnedv.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/15th-Annual-DV-Counts-Report-Illinois-Summary.pdf>

National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNDEV). 2022. Illinois state summary 2021.
<https://nnedv.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/16th-Annual-Domestic-Violence-Counts-Illinois-Summary-FINAL.pdf>

Pressey, D. (2022, January 16). When home isn't safe: Courage Connection has seen domestic violence rise during pandemic. The News-Gazette.
https://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/courts-police-fire/when-home-isnt-safe-courage-connection-has-seen-domestic-violence-rise-during-pandemic/article_e591a3f5-62e1-528a-bb2a-7e2d11aacfaf.html

Schenk, M. (2022, January 9). Local gun violence number in 2021 tell a grim tale.
https://www.news-gazette.com/news/local/courts-police-fire/local-gun-violence-numbers-in-2021-tell-a-grim-tale/article_6072667d-7056-50f6-ad30-8118b3b292f7.html

Social Impact Research Center. 2013. 50 Years Later: A Report on Illinois Poverty. Heartland Alliance.

Social Impact Research Center. 2020. Heartland Alliance 2020 Poverty Report. County Well-Being Dashboard 2020.

Sandstrom, H. & Huerta, S. 2013. The Negative Effects of Instability on Child Development: A Research Synthesis. The Urban Institute.

United for ALICE., United Way of Illinois. 2022. ALICE in Focus: Children Illinois Research Brief.

United for ALICE. 2022. ALICE in Focus: Children.

United for ALICE., United Way of Illinois. 2020. ALICE in Illinois: A Financial Hardship Study 2020 Report.

United Way of Champaign County. 2015. Community Report 2011.

University of Illinois Children and Family Research Center. 2022. www.cfrc.illinois.edu/data-center.php

US Census Bureau. 2012, 2013, 2014, 2019. American Community Survey. <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/>.

US Census Bureau. 2020. Quick Facts: Champaign County, Illinois. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/champaigncountyillinois>
U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics. (2021). Digest of Education Statistics, 2019 (NCES 2021-009), Chapter 2.
https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d19/ch_2.asp

Voices for Illinois Children. 2021. 2021 Illinois Kids Count Report: Addressing Child Poverty Before and After COVID-19. https://www.voices4kids.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/08.06-KIDS-COUNT_pages.pdf



**5 Dunlap Ct.
Savoy, IL 61874**

UnitedWayChampaign.org