PA Childstat
Data Dictionary
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Community Outcomes for Pennsylvania’s Children and Families
The indicator data is provided to allow counties and others to gauge the health, welfare and safety of Pennsylvania’s children and to investigate what may – or may not be – occurring in a county. Users should, however, be careful about drawing conclusions based upon a single data point or rate.

Babies Born Healthy

Indicator: Infant Mortality

Definition: The rate of deaths occurring among infants under one year of age, per 1,000 live births.

Significance: Infants who experience serious complications from premature birth, low birth weight, or congenital abnormalities are more likely to die before their first birthdays.

Data Source and Link: PA Department of Health provided the number of infant deaths and resident live births. Additional information can be found in the Epidemiologic Query and Mapping System (EpiQMS) and through the Births, Deaths and Other Vital Statistics link on DOH’s website at: http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/health_statistics_and_research/11599

Indicator: Low Birth Weight Babies

Definition: Low birth weights are weights below 2500 grams (5.5 pounds); very low birth weights are weights below 1500 grams (3.3 pounds). Note: Unknown birth weights are excluded from the counts and calculations.

Significance: Infants born at low birth weights (<2500 grams) are more likely to have developmental delays, visual, hearing and respiratory problems. A subset of these babies born with very low birth weight (<1500 grams) have an even greater chance of these problems. Being born with low or very low birth weight is the leading cause of infant mortality. Low birth weight is linked to the lack of early or adequate prenatal care and tobacco use during pregnancy.

Data Source and Link: PA Department of Health provided the number of low birth weight births and resident live births. Additional information can be found in the Epidemiologic Query and Mapping System (EpiQMS) and through the Births, Deaths and Other Vital Statistics link on DOH’s website at: http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/health_statistics_and_research/11599

Indicator: Births to Mothers Receiving Early and Adequate Prenatal Care

Definition: This indicator shows the percent of live births to mothers who receive early and adequate prenatal care. Note: Unknowns are excluded in the calculations.
**Significance:** Early prenatal care allows women and their health providers to identify and treat early health care problems, and early diagnosis and intervention during the first trimester can often prevent low birth weight and infant mortality. Early prenatal care will improve birth outcomes and lower health care costs by reducing the likelihood of complications during pregnancy and childbirth.

For an explanation of the method for judging adequacy of prenatal care, please see the Kotelchuck Index at: [http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/lib/health/ship/Appendix_C_Glossary.pdf](http://www.dsf.health.state.pa.us/health/lib/health/ship/Appendix_C_Glossary.pdf)

**Data Source and Link:** PA Department of Health. Additional information can be found in the Epidemiologic Query and Mapping System (EpiQMS) and through the Births, Deaths and Other Vital Statistics link on DOH’s website at: [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/health_statistics_and_research/11599](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/health_statistics_and_research/11599)

## Demographics

**Indicator: Food Stamps (SNAP) Enrolled, under age 18**

**Definition:** This indicator shows the total number of children under age 18 enrolled in Food Stamps.

**Significance:** The number of children enrolled for Food Stamps is an indicator of poverty and living in poverty can have far reaching consequences for children. Children in low-income households are more likely to have unmet nutritional needs and to live in substandard housing.

**Data Source and Link:** PA Department of Public Welfare, Office of Income Maintenance. Additional information available on the DPW website at: [www.dpw.state.pa.us](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us). Select DPW Organization, Office of Income Maintenance and then click on View the reports.

**Indicator: Food Stamps (SNAP) Enrolled, ages 18, 19 and 20**

**Definition:** This indicator shows the total number of children ages 18, 19 and 20 enrolled in Food Stamps.

**Significance:** The number of children enrolled for Food Stamps is an indicator of poverty and living in poverty can have far reaching consequences for children. Children in low-income households are more likely to have unmet nutritional needs and to live in substandard housing.

**Data Source and Link:** PA Department of Public Welfare, Office of Income Maintenance. Additional information available on the DPW website at: [www.dpw.state.pa.us](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us). Select DPW Organization, Office of Income Maintenance and then click on View the reports.

**Indicator: Children Enrolled in TANF**

**Definition:** This indicator shows the total number of children under age 18 enrolled in TANF.
Significance: The number of children enrolled in TANF is an indicator that the child is dependent on the parent or guardian & the parent or guardian must cooperate with child support requirements. The child must live the parent or guardian & they must care for the child. The child must be under 18.

Data Source and Link: PA Department of Public Welfare, Office of Income Maintenance, Enterprise Data Warehouse.

Indicator: Children Enrolled in LIHEAP

Definition: This indicator shows the total number of children under age 18 enrolled in LIHEAP.

Significance: The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps keep families safe and healthy through initiatives that assist families with energy costs.

Data Source and Link: PA Department of Public Welfare, Office of Income Maintenance. Additional information available on the DPW website at: www.dpw.state.pa.us. Select DPW Organization, Office of Income Maintenance and then click on View the reports.

Indicator: Children Enrolled in SSI Cash

Definition: This indicator shows the total number of children under age 18 enrolled in SSI Cash.

Significance: The number of children enrolled in Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is an indicator that the child is disabled & is dependent on the parent or guardian. The child can also be in foster care or adoption assistance. (This would be indicated by certain program status codes.) SSI is a Federal income supplement program funded by general tax revenues (NOT Social Security taxes).

Data Source and Link: PA Department of Public Welfare, Office of Income Maintenance, Enterprise Data Warehouse.

Indicator: Estimate # Persons Aged 0-17 below Poverty Level

Definition: This indicator shows the estimate number of children ages 0-17 below poverty level.

Significance: Moving out of poverty is particularly important for young children. Research has found that lifting low-income families’ income when a child is young not only tends to improve a child’s immediate well-being, but is associated with better health, more schooling, more hours worked, and higher earnings in adulthood.

Data Source and Link: PA Department of Public Welfare, Office of Income Maintenance. Additional information available on the DPW website at: www.dpw.state.pa.us. Select DPW Organization, Office of Income Maintenance and then click on View the reports.
Early Learning

Indicator: Child Care Providers in Keystone STARS

Definition: The number of child care facilities in Keystone STARS.

Significance: Research shows that children receiving quality early education are better prepared for kindergarten; do better in school; are less likely to repeat a grade or require special education services; and are more likely to graduate high school.

Data Source and Link: PA Departments of Education and Public Welfare, Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL). The Program Reach and Risk Assessment Report, as well as a link to county level data, is available at: http://www.pakeys.org/pages/get.aspx?page=EarlyLearning_Reach

Indicator: Children Served in Pre-K Counts

Definition: This indicator represents the number of 3- and 4-year olds served in pre-kindergarten programs. (The focus is on children at-risk of school failure due to income, special needs or language issues.)

Significance: Providing quality half-day and full-day pre-kindergarten in schools to 3- and 4-year olds will provide early experiences to prepare young learners for kindergarten and school success. Research consistently shows that children at risk of school failure will benefit greatly from quality early education and will succeed in school when they participate in quality early education opportunities.

Data Source and Link: PA Departments of Education and Public Welfare, Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL). The Program Reach and Risk Assessment Report, as well as a link to county level data, is available at: http://www.pakeys.org/pages/get.aspx?page=EarlyLearning_Reach

Indicator: Children in Public Full Day Kindergarten

Definition: The rate of children that attend public school full-day kindergarten.

Significance: Research shows that providing full-day kindergarten programs will better prepare children for learning, especially at-risk children. Full-day kindergarten will promote reading readiness and lead to improved school performance in later grades.

Data Source and Link: PA Department of Education. Additional information about enrollments and other education-related topics is available on the PDE website under the Data and Statistics tab: http://www.pde.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/data_and_statistics/7202
Indicator: Children Served by Child Care Works

**Definition:** The number of children who are receiving subsidized child care services.

**Significance:** Child Care Works (CCW) provides subsidized child care services for parents that are working, in training, or enrolled in educational programs. The child care subsidy is important to these parents because it provides children with the opportunity to participate in an early childhood program.

**Data Source and Link:** PA Departments of Education and Public Welfare, Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL). The Program Reach and Risk Assessment Report, as well as a link to county level data, is available at: [http://www.pakeys.org/pages/get.aspx?page=EarlyLearning_Reach](http://www.pakeys.org/pages/get.aspx?page=EarlyLearning_Reach)

Indicator: Children Served by Early Intervention Infant/Toddler Program

**Definition:** The number of children who in Early Intervention Infant/Toddler program.

**Significance:** Early Intervention Infant/Toddler provides services to children from birth through age two who have disabilities/developmental delays to help promote development so they are successful in any early education setting.

**Data Source and Link:** PA Departments of Education and Public Welfare, Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL). The Program Reach and Risk Assessment Report, as well as a link to county level data, is available at: [http://www.pakeys.org/pages/get.aspx?page=EarlyLearning_Reach](http://www.pakeys.org/pages/get.aspx?page=EarlyLearning_Reach)

Indicator: Children Served by Early Intervention Preschool Program

**Definition:** The number of children who in Early Intervention Preschool program.

**Significance:** Early Intervention Infant/Toddler provides services to children from age three through kindergartens who have disabilities/developmental delays. The services help promote development in these children so they are successful in any early education setting.

**Data Source and Link:** PA Departments of Education and Public Welfare, Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL). The Program Reach and Risk Assessment Report, as well as a link to county level data, is available at: [http://www.pakeys.org/pages/get.aspx?page=EarlyLearning_Reach](http://www.pakeys.org/pages/get.aspx?page=EarlyLearning_Reach)

Indicator: Children Served by Federal Head Start Program

**Definition:** The number of children who are in Federal Head Start program.

**Significance:** Head Start provides free, comprehensive early learning services to children & families most at risk of academic failure.

**Data Source and Link:** PA Departments of Education and Public Welfare, Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL). The Program Reach and Risk Assessment Report, as well
Healthy Children

Indicator: Children Enrolled in CHIP

**Definition:** This indicator shows the average monthly enrollment of children enrolled in the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

**Significance:** Children who lack health insurance are less likely to get immunizations, regular check-ups, and appropriate treatment for common childhood ailments, and they are more likely to miss school due to illness.

While PA has one of the highest rates of health care coverage for children in the country, a 2008 Health Insurance Survey found that 138,998 children age 0-18 remain uninsured. This represents 5% of all children age 0-18.

**Data Source and Link:** PA Department Insurance. Recent monthly statistics by county can be found at: [www.chipcoverpakids.com](http://www.chipcoverpakids.com). Click on About Chip, then Enrollment Figures.

Indicator: Children Enrolled in Medical Assistance, Ages 0-20 years

**Definition:** This indicator shows the average monthly number of children receiving Medical Assistance, ages 0 through 20 years.

**Significance:** Children who lack health insurance are less likely to get immunizations, regular check-ups, and appropriate treatment for common childhood ailments, and they are also more likely to miss school due to illness. The Commonwealth's MA program finances primary, preventive, emergency and long-term care services for eligible children in Pennsylvania.

**Data Source:** PA Department of Public Welfare, Enterprise Data Warehouse. Additional information on MA Children is available from the Office of Income Maintenance (OIM), but OIM's reports include children only through age 17. Their reports may be accessed through the DPW website at: [www.dpw.state.pa.us](http://www.dpw.state.pa.us). Select DPW Organization, Office of Income Maintenance and then click on View the reports.

Indicator: Children Lacking Health Insurance

**Definition:** This indicator shows the total number of children age 0-17 lacking health insurance.

**Significance:** Children who lack health insurance are less likely to get immunizations, regular check-ups, and appropriate treatment for common childhood ailments, and they are more likely to miss school due to illness.
**Data Source and Link:** American Community Survey.

**Indicator: Children Less than 7 Years of Age Tested for Lead Poisoning**

**Definition:** This indicator shows the number of children tested for lead and the total number of confirmed cases of lead poisoning.

**Significance:** Childhood exposure to lead can cause serious and permanent damage to children, including decreases in intelligence levels, and increases in learning disabilities and behavioral problems. Exposure to lead-based paint in older homes is the primary cause of lead poisoning.

**Data Source and Link:** PA Department of Health – Childhood Lead Surveillance Annual Reports, available online at: [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/lead_poisoning_prevention__control/14175](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/lead_poisoning_prevention__control/14175)

**Indicator: Child and Adolescent Deaths**

**Definition:** The number and rate of deaths per 10,000 children, ages 0-19.

**Significance:** Many of the leading causes of child and adolescents deaths are preventable including motor vehicle and non-transportation related accidents, congenital health issues, assaults (homicides), and suicides. The causes of death reveal specific areas where prevention efforts can be made.

**Data Source and Link:** PA Department of Health provided the number of deaths by age groups and population data. Additional information can be found in the Epidemiologic Query and Mapping System (EpiQMS) and through the Births, Deaths and Other Vital Statistics link on DOH’s website at: [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/health_statistics_and_research/11599](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/health_statistics_and_research/11599)

**Indicator: Students with Diabetes Type I**

**Definition:** Previously known as Juvenile-onset Diabetes, disorder characterized by lack of insulin production in the pancreas.

**Significance:** Federal and state law require public educational agencies to ensure that students in grades K-12 identified as having a disability have equal opportunity to participate in the school program and extracurricular activities. Schools are required to provide students with the aids, services and accommodations designed to meet their educational needs.

**Data Source and Link:** This information is provided by the Department of Health, Division of School Health from data gathered annually from public school entities. Additional Health Statistics information can be found at [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/schools/14130/statistics/55670](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/schools/14130/statistics/55670)

**Indicator: Students with Diabetes Type II**

**Definition:** Previously known as Adult-onset Diabetes, disorder characterized by the pancreas’ inability to produce sufficient insulin or the body’s inability to utilize insulin efficiently.
Significance: Federal and state law require public educational agencies to ensure that students in grades K-12 identified as having a disability have equal opportunity to participate in the school program and extracurricular activities. Schools are required to provide students with the aids, services and accommodations designed to meet their educational needs.

Data Source and Link: This information is provided by the Department of Health, Division of School Health from data gathered annually from public school entities. Additional Health Statistics information can be found at http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/schools/14130/statistics/55670

Indicator: Students with Asthma

Definition: A disease which causes chronic inflammation of the bronchial tubes which in turn causes swelling and narrowing of the airways. Include chronic inflammatory disease of the airways (reactive airway disease), and exercise induced asthma.

Significance: Federal and state law require public educational agencies to ensure that students in grades K-12 identified as having a disability have equal opportunity to participate in the school program and extracurricular activities. Schools are required to provide students with the aids, services and accommodations designed to meet their educational needs.

Data Source and Link: This information is provided by the Department of Health, Division of School Health from data gathered annually from public school entities. Additional Health Statistics information can be found at http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/schools/14130/statistics/55670

Indicator: Students with Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD/ADHD)

Definition: A developmental and behavioral disorder characterized by inattention, impulsiveness and/or hyperactivity (DSM-IV).

Significance: Federal and state law require public educational agencies to ensure that students in grades K-12 identified as having a disability have equal opportunity to participate in the school program and extracurricular activities. Schools are required to provide students with the aids, services and accommodations designed to meet their educational needs.

Data Source and Link: This information is provided by the Department of Health, Division of School Health from data gathered annually from public school entities. Additional Health Statistics information can be found at http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/schools/14130/statistics/55670

Healthy Youth Behaviors

Indicator: Juvenile Crime Arrests

Definition: The number of juvenile crime arrests and the rate of arrests per 1,000 youths between the ages of 10-17.

Significance: It is critically important to reduce and prevent youth violence in order to keep youth safe and protect communities. According to the U.S. Department of Justice, compared with juveniles whose
delinquent behavior begins later in adolescence, child delinquents (offenders younger than age 13) face a greater risk of becoming serious, violent, and chronic offenders. Risk factors for juvenile crime include unstable families, violent families, inadequate supervision, and poor school performance, including absence from school and falling behind one or more grade levels.

**Data Source and Link:** Data through 2008 was adapted from the PA Electronic Juvenile Justice Data Book, online at: [http://www.ncjiservehttp.org/padatabook/](http://www.ncjiservehttp.org/padatabook/). More recent data was provided by the National Center for Juvenile Justice, Pittsburgh, PA. ([www.ncjj.org/](http://www.ncjj.org/))

**Indicator: Child Suicides, Ages 10-19**

**Definition:** The number of youth, ages 10-19, who die from intentional self-harm.

**Significance:** Suicides among young people is a major public health problem. According to the PA Department of Health (DOH), it is the third leading cause of death for youth ages 15-24, nationwide. Research shows that for every youth suicide, there are an estimated 20 suicide attempts. Youth suicide is believed to be underreported because of social stigma, shame and guilt among family and friends.

**Data Source and Link:** PA Department of Health. Additional information can be found in the Epidemiologic Query and Mapping System (EpiQMS) and through the Births, Deaths and Other Vital Statistics link on DOH’s website at: [http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/health_statistics_and_research/11599](http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/health_statistics_and_research/11599)

**Indicator: Juvenile Delinquency Dispositions**

**Definition:** The number of juveniles with a delinquency disposition (includes new allegations and disposition reviews). A disposition is a referral disposed of by the juvenile probation department and/or the court for youth ages 10-17. (Within a single delinquency referral, a youth may be charged with a number of offenses.)

**Significance:** Juvenile delinquency can often lead to negative consequences, including adult correctional involvement. The Juvenile Act requires balanced attention to the protection of the community, accountability for offenses committed, and development of competencies to ensure the child becomes a responsible and productive member of the community. Risk factors for juvenile delinquency can include unstable families, inadequate supervision, and poor school performance. Developing a continuum of prevention and intervention services can decrease juvenile delinquency and out-of-home placements.

**Data Source and Link:** Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission (JCJC). To view copies of their annual reports, which provide an overview of juvenile court dispositions in Pennsylvania and summarize information provided by county juvenile probation departments, click on Statistics at: [http://www.jcjc.state.pa.us](http://www.jcjc.state.pa.us). **The Pennsylvania Juvenile Delinquency Data Analysis Tool** is also accessible from this site; it was developed to facilitate independent analysis of annual dispositions reported to the JCJC by counties throughout the Commonwealth.
Indicator: Juvenile Delinquency Placements

Definition: This indicator represents the number of juveniles with a delinquency disposition who were placed out-of-home. A disposition is a referral disposed of by the juvenile probation department and/or the court for youth ages 10-17.

Significance: Juvenile delinquency can often lead to negative consequences, including adult correctional involvement. The Juvenile Act requires balanced attention to the protection of the community, accountability for offenses committed, and developing competencies to ensure the child becomes a responsible and productive member of the community. Risk factors for juvenile delinquency can include: unstable families, inadequate supervision, and poor school performance. Developing a continuum of prevention and intervention services can decrease juvenile delinquency and out-of-home placements.

Data Source and Link: Pennsylvania Juvenile Court Judges’ Commission (JCJC). To view copies of their annual reports, which provide an overview of juvenile court dispositions in Pennsylvania and summarize information provided by county juvenile probation departments, click on Statistics at: http://www.jcjc.state.pa.us. The Pennsylvania Juvenile Delinquency Data Analysis Tool is also accessible from this site; it was developed to facilitate independent analysis of annual dispositions reported to the JCJC by counties throughout the Commonwealth.

Indicator: Childhood Obesity

Definition: This indicator shows the number and percentage of students, in public and private schools combined, who ranked in the two highest percentile ranges as determined by their Body Mass Index (BMI).

Significance: Childhood obesity is a serious public health concern and a leading contributor to a variety of health problems, such as high blood pressure, high cholesterol, asthma, and Type 2 diabetes. Nationally, the prevalence of obesity among children ages 6-11 is nearly four times what it was in the 1960s and for children ages 2-5, it is three times more.

Data Source and Link: PA Department of Health. Additional information about the BMI Screenings, definitions of the ranges, and copies of the annual reports can be found at: http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt?open=514&objID=556724&mode=2

Indicator: Teen Pregnancies

Definition: The number and rate of teen pregnancies per 1,000 females, aged 15-19.

Significance: Motherhood before the age of 20 places both young mothers and their children at risk for a variety of medical, social, and economic problems. Teen mothers are more likely to drop out of high school, live in poverty, and be single parents. Children born to teen mothers face increased risks of low-birth weight, developmental problems, and poverty.
**Data Source and Link:** PA Department of Health provided the number of pregnancies and population data. Additional information can be found in the Epidemiologic Query and Mapping System (EpiQMS) and through the Births, Deaths and Other Vital Statistics link on DOH’s website at: http://www.portal.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/health_statistics_and_research/11599

**Indicator: Juvenile Arrests: Liquor Law Violations**

**Definition:** The number of liquor law violation arrests for juveniles under the age of 18. The liquor law violations include, with the exceptions of drunkenness and driving under the influence, all offenses related to alcohol, such as consumption of alcoholic beverages by a minor.

**Significance:** The use and/or abuse of alcohol by juveniles is linked to a host of physical and social problems, such as delinquent behavior, poor school performance, alcohol related automobile crashes or fatalities, and alcohol dependence.

**Data Source and Link:** Data through 2008 was adapted from the PA Electronic Juvenile Justice Data Book, online at: http://www.ncjjservehttp.org/padatabook/. More recent data was provided by the National Center for Juvenile Justice, Pittsburgh, PA. (www.ncjj.org/)

**Safe and Stable Families and Communities**

**Indicator: New Child Welfare Placements**

**Definition:** The number of children removed from their homes and placed into care, and the rate of placement per 1,000 children. Note: numbers do not include children already in care at the start of the time period.

**Significance:** Children need safe and stable homes in order to thrive. Family instability, abuse, and neglect pose significant risks to children that can lead to placement outside of the home. Developing a continuum of prevention and intervention services can decrease the need for out-of-home placements.

**Data Source:** PA Department of Public Welfare, Office of Children, Youth and Families, AFCARS Data System. This information is not available online.

**Indicator: Substantiated Child Abuse**

**Definition:** The number of reports of suspected child abuse and substantiated abuse, and the rate of substantiated reports per 1,000 children.

**Significance:** Children need safe and stable homes in order to thrive. Family instability and abuse and neglect pose significant risks to children that may lead to placement outside of the home. Child abuse can result in developmental delays, school failure, mental health and/or substance abuse problems, and delinquent behavior. Child abuse is preventable and more strategies are needed to reduce the incidence of child abuse and keep children safe.
Indicator: 12-month Reunifications

**Definition:** Of all children discharged from foster care to reunification during the 12-month time period indicated, the percent / number who were reunified in less than 12 months from the date of the latest removal from the home. This is a retroactive measure that shows reunifications that occurred during the time period; it is not a measure of removals during the time period that will be reunified. Only reunifications are counted; discharges to other relatives who were not the original caretakers are not counted.

**Significance:** Children need to be unified with their family and grow-up in permanent and stable homes. Children experiencing home disruptions and being placed outside of their home may be at-risk of having developmental delays, anxiety disorders, depression, poor social development, and poor school performance.

**Data Source:** PA Department of Public Welfare, Office of Children, Youth and Families, AFCARS Data System. This information is not available online.

Indicator: Children Re-entering Care within 12 Months

**Definition:** Of all children who were discharged from foster care to reunification or to other relatives, the percent / number that re-entered foster care in less than twelve months following the date of discharge.

**Significance:** Children who experience multiple out of home placements and re-enter care may be at risk for having developmental delays, anxiety disorders, depression, poor social development and poor school performance. A continuum of services should support both the child and family. Comprehensive family support services should be available to ensure appropriate care for the child and increase the permanency outcomes.

**Data Source:** PA Department of Public Welfare, Office of Children, Youth and Families, AFCARS Data System. This information is not available online.

Indicator: Residential Treatment Facility (RTF) Usage (Accredited and Non-Accredited)

**Definition:** This indicator represents the number of children placed in RTF care and the utilization rate per 1,000 children under age 21.

**Significance:** While RTFs represent an important component in the continuum of care for children with mental health needs, all too often children are placed in RTFs because more appropriate community based services are not available. There is growing evidence that children with behavioral health needs
can be more effectively served in their homes and communities. In addition, community based treatment services often represent a more appropriate and less costly form of intervention.

**Data Source and Link:** Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. This information is not available online.

### Indicator: Number of Children Enrolled in ODP ID Waiver Programs

**Definition:** This indicator represents the number of children enrolled in Office of Developmental Programs (ODP) intellectual disability community waiver programs.

**Significance:** This indicator represents the number of children served in community settings, thereby avoiding more restrictive, higher cost institutional facility settings.

**Data Source and Link:** Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Office of Developmental Programs. This information is not available online.

### School Success

#### Indicator: Student Withdrawals from Public Schools

**Definition:** Any student who, for any reason except death, leaves school before graduation without transferring to another school/institution. The dropout rate measures the proportion of students enrolled who drop out during a single school year.

**Significance:** High school dropouts have greater difficulty securing and maintaining employment, lower earnings, and difficulty supporting their families. Students drop out of school for a variety of reasons including poor academic performance and personal problems, such as substance abuse, pregnancy and parenthood. Family conditions connected to dropouts include unstable home life, poor education of parents, poverty and primary language other than English.

**Data Source and Links:** PA Department of Education. Additional information about dropouts and other education-related topics is available on the PDE website under the Data and Statistics tab: [http://www.pde.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/data_and_statistics/7202](http://www.pde.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/data_and_statistics/7202)

#### Indicator: Truancy in Public Schools

**Definition:** This indicator shows the number and percentage of habitual truants in public schools based on individual school self-reports. By law, the PA Department of Education tracks habitual truants. When a student has three unexcused absences, a notification is sent home. If the student has three additional unexcused absences, he/she is then defined as a “habitual truant.” Numbers reflect count of unduplicated students.

**Significance:** High levels of absenteeism and truancy often lead to long-term negative consequences for children, i.e., school failure, dropping out of school, and greater risk of becoming involved in the
child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health and/or drug and alcohol systems. Developing a continuum of prevention and intervention services is needed to reduce absenteeism and truancy.

**Data Source and Link:** PA Department of Education. Additional information on truancy can be found at: [www.safeschools.state.pa.us](http://www.safeschools.state.pa.us). Click on School Safety and then on School Safety Historic. Select a year and choose a school district to view the Safe Schools Report. Truancy is among the items included in the report.

**Indicator: Public School Average Daily Attendance**

**Definition:** This indicator shows the average daily attendance for public schools students.

**Significance:** High levels of absenteeism and truancy can have long-term negative consequences for children, such as school failure, dropping out of school, and greater risk of becoming involved in the child welfare, juvenile justice, mental health and/or drug and alcohol systems. Developing a continuum of prevention and intervention is needed to reduce absenteeism and truancy.

**Data Source and Link:** PA Department of Education. Additional information about attendance and other education-related topics is available on the PDE website under Data and Statistics. Choose Child Accounting Reports and Data Files to access annual attendance reports: [http://www.pde.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/data_and_statistics/7202](http://www.pde.state.pa.us/portal/server.pt/community/data_and_statistics/7202)