

Report C:

Demographic Profile of 21 EEM Minigrant Communities

Wisconsin Child Care Research Partnership

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Introduction

The impetus behind much of Wisconsin's current vigorous interest in 4-year-old children is that, if schools can play a part in their early learning experiences, the children will be more ready for 5-year-old kindergarten. The state Superintendent of the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) announced in a January, 2006 press release that 4-year-old kindergarten (4K) is "one of the best first steps educators can take to raise achievement for all students, and close the achievement gap – essentially stopping the gap before it begins." A majority of Wisconsin school districts have exercised the permissive legislation allowed by state statute to offer 4-year-old programming and receive state "membership aid" for serving children of that age, and districts are encouraged to collaborate with local providers. An additional incentive came to some districts in 2005 when the "Early Education Matters" project of the Wisconsin Council on Children & Families offered grants of up to \$10,000 to communities to help them plan for and perhaps implement 4K programs in collaboration with child care or Head Start (www.wccf.org). Twenty-one districts have received those grants; six have already begun 4K programs and many plan to within the next year.

Early Education Matters (EEM)

The Wisconsin Council on Children and Families (WCCF) and partners Milwaukee Public Schools, the Wisconsin Child Care Research Partnership at UW-Extension, and the Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA) received a \$1.3 million grant from the Joyce Foundation in May 2004 for a two-year project to expand the quality and quantity of early education experiences available to Wisconsin's 4-year olds. Other unfunded partners involved in the project include representatives from Head Start, Wisconsin Child Care Resource and Referral Network and the Department of Public Instruction. The Joyce Foundation supports efforts to strengthen public policies in ways that improve the quality of life in the Great Lakes region. The Foundation's early education grant-making efforts support the expansion of opportunities for, and improvement in the quality of early education in, Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan.

Early Education Matters promotes a collaborative, community-based approach to improving access to high quality learning experiences for all of Wisconsin's children. Grant funds were to cover start-up costs, including feasibility studies, program planning and modeling, early learning standards training, location planning, consensus building, site visits, public awareness activities, and community surveys. The 21 school district communities who received planning grants from EEM are as shown in Table 1:

Table 1: EEM Mini-grant Districts/Communities

- Antigo
- Black River Falls
- Chippewa Falls
- Eau Claire
- Elcho
- Green Bay
- Kenosha
- Kiel
- Lake Mills
- Luxembourg-Casco
- Maple
- Menomonie
- Milwaukee
- Monroe
- New Glarus
- Oshkosh
- Park Falls
- Sauk Prairie
- Stanley-Boyd, Cadott, Bloomer
- Superior
- Watertown

Of these 23 total grantees (Stanely-Boyd, Cadott, and Bloomer are separate districts but applied and received one grant), Bloomer, Elcho, Kiel, Monroe, New Glarus, and Park Falls began implementation of 4K community approach in 2005-06 with child care Head Start, or parochial schools, and are now included in the total of 33 community approach districts in our 2005-06 report (Report D in this series). In addition, Eau Claire greatly expanded its number of local child care or Head Start programs as part of its "Eau Claire 4 Tomorrow" (EC4T) initiative, from 3 sites to 23 sites in 2005-06, including agreements with two accredited child care centers. New Glarus also began a community approach 4K program with a local, nationally-accredited child care center. Milwaukee used its mini-grant to fund four potential collaborations in the Milwaukee School District.

Demographic data: Comparing the 13 baseline districts with EEM districts

At the request of WCCF, we now provide comparison data between the original 13 districts that had implemented 4K in year one of the EEM grant and the 21 EEM districts receiving mini-grants. Note: even though Sturgeon Bay has since dropped its 4K community approach program, that district is included in the comparisons that follow because it was one of the original 13 baseline districts.

The U.S. Census is used on the Wisconsin Child Care Research Partnership "Early Care and Education Web Mapping" site (www.ecemap.uwex.edu) to provide comparative data related to early care and education, such as percent of children living in poverty or non-English speaking adults, by geographic area. The EEM project provided us the opportunity to include data on school district 4K programs, and it seemed appropriate to use the web mapping and other census data to contrast and compare the 13 Community Approach Baseline districts with the 21 mini-grant districts.

In the tables that follow, we look at language and race/ethnicity demographic data, then education data, then data on the number of child care centers, Head Start programs, and accredited centers from the combined "child care provider file" (created under the state Child Care Data and Capacity federal grant through the Department of Workforce Development). For the first time in Wisconsin, we are able to pool child care and Head Start data from several sources for comparative analysis. We provide a

summary following each of these tables comparing the 13 Baseline districts and the EEM districts.

1. Language and race/ethnicity

Table 1: Language and Race/Ethnicity Demographic Data

	District	% of people who do not speak English	% minority (race/ethnicity)
Baseline 13	Barron Area	3.6	2.7
	Blair-Taylor	6.8	1.8
	Colby	7.4	2.9
	Colfax	2.2	1.6
	Eau Claire Area	6.3	6.4
	La Crosse	6.4	8.0
	Milwaukee	15.9	54.6
	Montello	9.0	13.8
	Portage Community	4.7	6.6
	Rice Lake Area	3.6	2.9
	Sturgeon Bay	5.1	3.3
	Wausau	10.8	11.0
	Weyerhaeuser Area	2.6	2.0
EEM 21	Antigo	2.6	2.8
	Black River Falls	6.3	15.4
	Chippewa Falls Area	2.8	2.3
	Eau Claire Area	6.3	6.4
	Elcho	3.6	1.3
	Green Bay Area	9.5	14.4
	Kenosha	11.0	18.1
	Kiel Area	5.0	1.7
	Lake Mills Area	3.6	3.9
	Luxemburg-Casco	4.6	1.5
	Maple	4.9	3.2
	Menomonie Area	6.0	5.7
	Milwaukee	15.9	54.6
	Monroe	4.4	2.6
	New Glarus	6.1	2.2
	Oshkosh Area	6.4	7.3
	Park Falls	3.4	2.5
	Sauk Prairie	5.0	3.9
Stanley-Boyd Area	3.8	1.4	
Superior	3.8	5.5	
Watertown	6.3	5.8	

Table 2: Summary of Demographics of Collaborative 4K Districts (Averages): Language and Race/Ethnicity

	Baseline (n=13*)	EEM (n=21*)
% of people who do not speak English	5.7	5.2
Minority	5.1	5.3

*Eau Claire and Milwaukee are in both groups; therefore, they are excluded in the comparison of means.

The results of these analyses indicate overall similarity between the baseline community approach districts and the EEM mini-grant districts in terms of language and race/ethnicity. That is, approximately 5% of the people in both districts did not speak English; they ranged from 2-15% of people who were non-English speakers. Further, 5% were representatives of a minority group, with a range of 2-55% if people who were members of an ethnic minority. These findings are representative of the state as a whole in terms of language and race/ethnicity.

2. Education and income levels

Table 3: Education and Income Demographic Data

	District	% with no more than a high school diploma/GED	Poverty Rate	Child Poverty Rate	Child Poverty Rate Under 5
Baseline 13	Barron Area	43.3	9.0	10.8	16.3
	Blair-Taylor	48.6	11.2	15.3	17.0
	Colby	52.6	11.5	17.0	16.2
	Colfax	45.2	7.0	8.1	5.8
	Eau Claire Area	33.2	11.6	9.1	12.6
	La Crosse	34.9	14.5	12.5	14.5
	Milwaukee	40.8	21.3	32.0	33.9
	Montello	47.6	7.5	8.4	9.3
	Portage Community	46.2	6.5	7.3	10.1
	Rice Lake Area	39.6	7.7	9.6	10.7
	Sturgeon Bay	42.6	7.8	12.2	21.6
	Wausau	38.2	8.5	12.9	14.8
	Weyerhaeuser Area	50.2	12.9	22.0	30.0
EEM 21	Antigo	50.8	10.5	13.8	15.5
	Black River Falls	49.0	9.0	8.2	11.0
	Chippewa Falls Area	43.3	7.4	10.1	12.7
	Eau Claire Area	33.2	11.6	9.1	12.6
	Elcho	54.6	7.6	7.1	3.8
	Green Bay Area	39.2	9.0	11.1	13.0
	Kenosha	39.0	8.3	11.3	10.8
	Kiel Area	49.0	2.8	3.0	3.0
	Lake Mills Area	37.8	5.5	6.8	4.8
	Luxemburg-Casco	52.6	4.1	3.5	2.9
	Maple	43.2	8.0	11.6	9.2
	Menomonie Area	37.0	16.4	13.9	15.3
	Milwaukee	40.8	21.3	32.0	33.9
	Monroe	45.7	5.2	5.0	6.6
	New Glarus	38.5	5.4	7.0	8.2
	Oshkosh Area	41.7	8.9	8.4	11.7
	Park Falls	49.1	8.1	12.9	16.7
	Sauk Prairie	43.2	8.1	12.0	15.7
	Stanley-Boyd Area	53.2	10.7	13.9	11.1
	Superior	41.0	11.9	14.9	23.1
Watertown	44.7	5.8	7.2	8.0	

Table 4: Summary of Demographics of Collaborative 4K Districts (Averages): Education and Income

	Baseline (n=13*)	EEM (n=21*)
% with no more than a high school diploma/GED	44.5	44.9
Poverty Rate	9.5	8.0
Child Poverty Rate	12.4	9.6
Child Poverty Rate Under 5	15.1	10.7

*Eau Claire and Milwaukee are in both groups; therefore, they are excluded in the comparison of means.

Approximately 44% of adults in these districts had no more than a high school diploma. Poverty rates, for families in general and for children, are not statistically different between the baseline and EEM minigrant districts.

3. Comparative data on numbers of 4-year-old children, child care and Head Start centers, and nationally-accredited centers

Table 5: Total Number of 4-year-olds, Group/Head Start Centers, and Accredited Centers

	District	4-year-olds	Group centers	Head Start centers	Accredited Centers
Baseline 13	Barron Area	95	5	1	0
	Blair-Taylor	45	1	1	0
	Colby	115	3	2	0
	Colfax	50	1	1	0
	Eau Claire Area	805	36	11	4
	La Crosse	635	31	4	2
	Milwaukee	9,170	478	60	26
	Montello	60	4	2	0
	Portage Community	180	10	3	1
	Rice Lake Area	205	12	3	0
	Sturgeon Bay	85	4	1	0
	Wausau	750	36	1	3
	Weyerhaeuser Area	8	0	0	0
EEM 21	Antigo	230	4	4	0
	Black River Falls	105	3	5	0
	Chippewa Falls Area	425	15	2	1
	Eau Claire Area	805	36	11	4
	Elcho	19	0	1	0
	Green Bay Area	1,830	70	6	12
	Kenosha	1,615	56	5	6
	Kiel Area	95	2	0	0
	Lake Mills Area	105	2	1	0
	Luxemburg-Casco	130	4	0	0
	Maple	105	4	1	0
	Menomonie Area	260	9	2	2
	Milwaukee	9,170	478	60	26
	Monroe	170	7	1	0
	New Glarus	80	2	0	2
	Oshkosh Area	940	44	3	4
	Park Falls	50	2	1	0
	Sauk Prairie	230	4	1	0
	Stanley-Boyd Area	120	2	1	0
Superior	415	14	2	0	
Watertown	310	6	1	1	

Table 6: Summary of Average Demographics of 4-year-olds, Child Care and Head Start Centers, Accredited Centers

	Baseline (n=13*)	EEM (n=21*)
Average # 4-year-olds	203	381
Average # Group Centers	10	13
Average # Head Start Programs	2	2
Average # Accredited centers	1	2

*Eau Claire and Milwaukee are in both groups; therefore, they are excluded in the comparison of means.

Although there is no statistical significance in differences between the 13 baseline and the 21 EEM districts, there is considerable variability among the districts in terms of the number of four-year-olds and number of child care and Head Start centers.

Community Approach Types: Predictions for Implementation

Closer examination of the 13 baseline districts may help predict which types of collaboration those EEM districts that have not yet implemented 4K will choose. Among the original 13 Baseline Community Approach districts, seven (Blair-Taylor, Colfax, Montello, Weyerhaeuser Area, Barron Area, Colby, Sturgeon Bay) had collaborations with one Head Start or child care center, or with two outside of the district elementary school programs. For comparison purposes, we will call them a Group I Implementation Type.

Six of the 13 baseline community approach districts (Eau Claire Area, La Crosse, Milwaukee, Portage Community, Rice Lake Area, Wausau) collaborate for 4K within the district with child care, and/or with Head Start in more than 3 sites. (For the purposes of prediction, Eau Claire and Milwaukee are excluded, since they are in both the baseline and EEM group). For comparison purposes, we will call them a Group II Implementation Type.

The Group II Implementation Types for community approach 4K tend to have more four-year-olds, more child care centers and Head Start centers in the district, and a significant portion of the population with lower educational levels, than Group I implementation Types (see Table 7).

Table 7: Demographic Comparisons (Averages) of Group I and Group II Implementation Types for Community Approach

	Group I	Group II
Avg. # 4-year-olds	65	443
Avg. # Group Centers	3	22
Avg. # Head Start Centers	1	3
Avg. # Accredited Centers	0	2
% of people who speak English	94.8	93.6
% minority group	4.0	7.1
% with no more than a high school diploma/GED	47.2	39.7
Poverty Rate Percentage	9.6	9.3
Child Poverty Rate Percentage	13.4	10.6
Child Poverty Rate Under 5 Percentage	16.6	12.5

When we look at the 21 mini-grant communities, those districts that have more than 150 4-year-olds according to the census include Antigo, Chippewa Falls Area, Green Bay Area, Kenosha, Menomonie Area, Monroe, Oshkosh Area, Sauk Prairie, Superior, and Watertown. These districts also relate most to the community approach districts in number of 4-year-olds and number of ECE programs. Based on size Table 8 includes the seven EEM districts which one might predict would move (or already have moved) toward a Group II implementation (see Table 7, above).

Similarly, the districts grouped in Table 9 represent the somewhat smaller districts that - as a first step toward a community approach - may begin collaborations with a single-site Head Start or child care program (and some already have done so). These predictions are offered in the hope that leaders in the 4K "community approach" effort may have data with which to work.

Table 8: EEM Districts Likely to Become Group II Implementation Type for Community Approach

District	4-year-olds	Group centers	Head Start centers	% with a high school diploma/GED or less
Chippewa Falls Area	425	15	2	43.3
Green Bay Area	1,830	70	6	39.2
Kenosha	1,615	56	5	39.0
Menomonie Area	260	9	2	37.0
Oshkosh Area	940	44	3	41.7
Superior	415	14	2	41.0
Watertown	310	6	1	44.7
<i>Average</i>	828	31	3	40.8

Table 9: EEM Districts Likely to Become Group I Implementation Type for Community Approach **

District	4-year-olds	Group centers	Head Start Centers	% with a high school diploma/GED or less
Antigo	230	4	4	50.8
Black River Falls	105	3	5	49.0
Elcho**	19	0	1	54.6
Kiel Area**	95	2	0	49.0
Lake Mills Area	105	2	1	37.8
Luxemburg-Casco	130	4	0	52.6
Maple	105	4	1	43.2
Monroe**	170	7	1	45.7
New Glarus**	80	2	0	38.5
Park Falls**	50	2	1	49.1
Sauk Prairie	230	4	1	43.2
Stanley-Boyd Area	120	2	1	53.2
<i>Average</i>	120	3	1	47.2

**Have already begun 4K community approach in 2005-06, with 1-3 sites.

Tables 8 and 9 are meant to be very preliminary. It is only the beginning of our attempt to categorize districts, which may provide guidance to districts beginning to implement a 4K community approach.

Summary

Public school districts vary in size from relatively few children to thousands of children; their geographic areas are a few square miles to hundreds of square miles; they have in their communities no formal child care or Head Start or they have many such centers with whom they can collaborate. A recent analysis by the Wisconsin Child Care Research Partnership showed 85 school districts with no licensed child care or licensed Head Start programs within the district.

The comparisons and contrasts provided above should be taken as data in context, not as true predictors in implementing 4K programs in a “community approach” model. What we have learned from hundreds of follow-up calls to districts, child care programs, and Head Start programs is that there is no accounting for what can happen when a single, dedicated individual – with access to district leadership and a fully-formed community planning group with excellent representation – can accomplish. Building a strong coalition for 4K collaborations is a long process, and we have shown that most districts either begin small and then expand, or begin and remain small in the number of collaborative 4K sites – and the differences are likely to be influenced by demographics of the communities.