



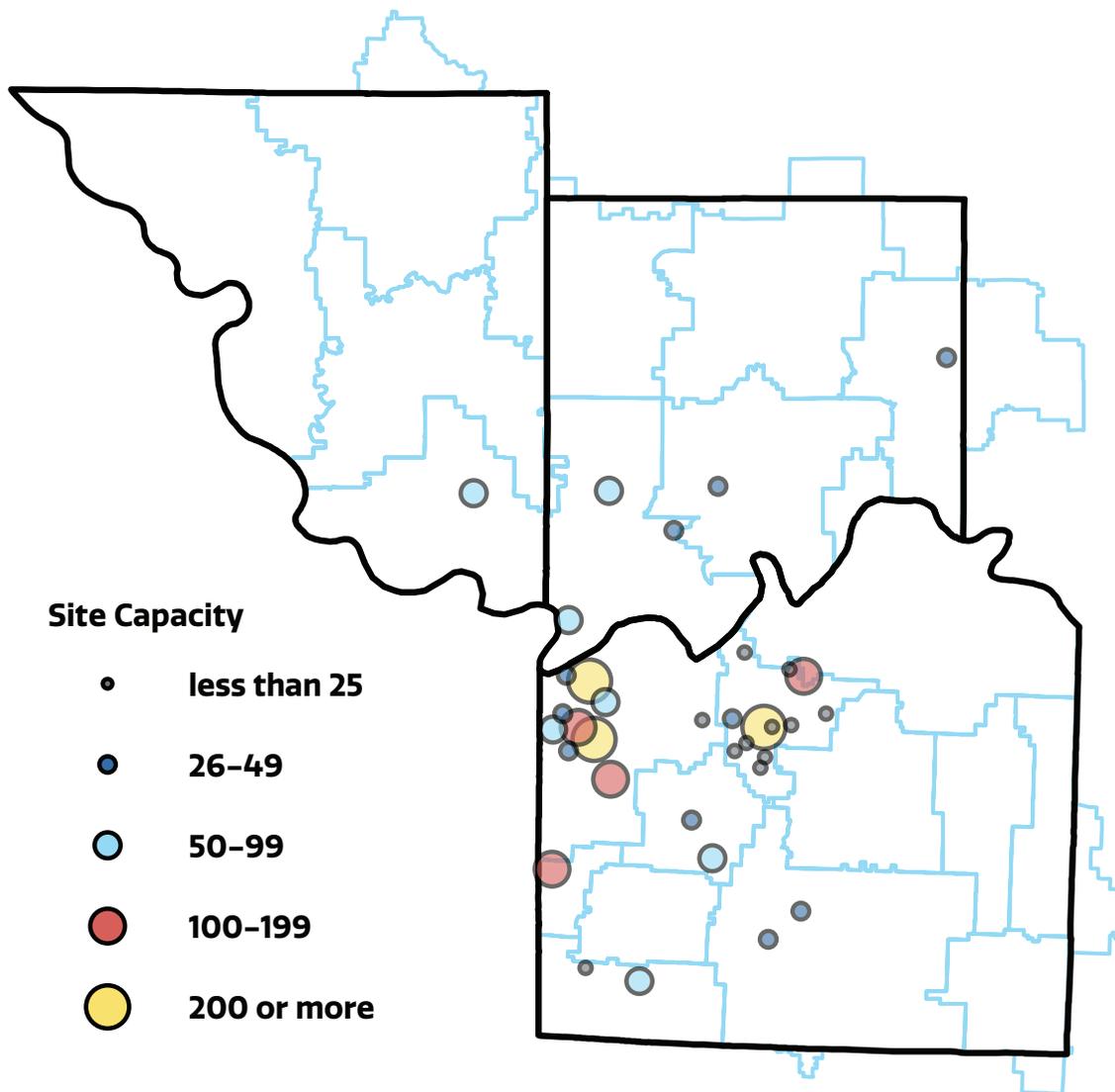
Head Start

MID-AMERICA REGIONAL COUNCIL

**2020-2021
COMMUNITY
ASSESSMENT
UPDATE**

Head Start Site Location and Capacity

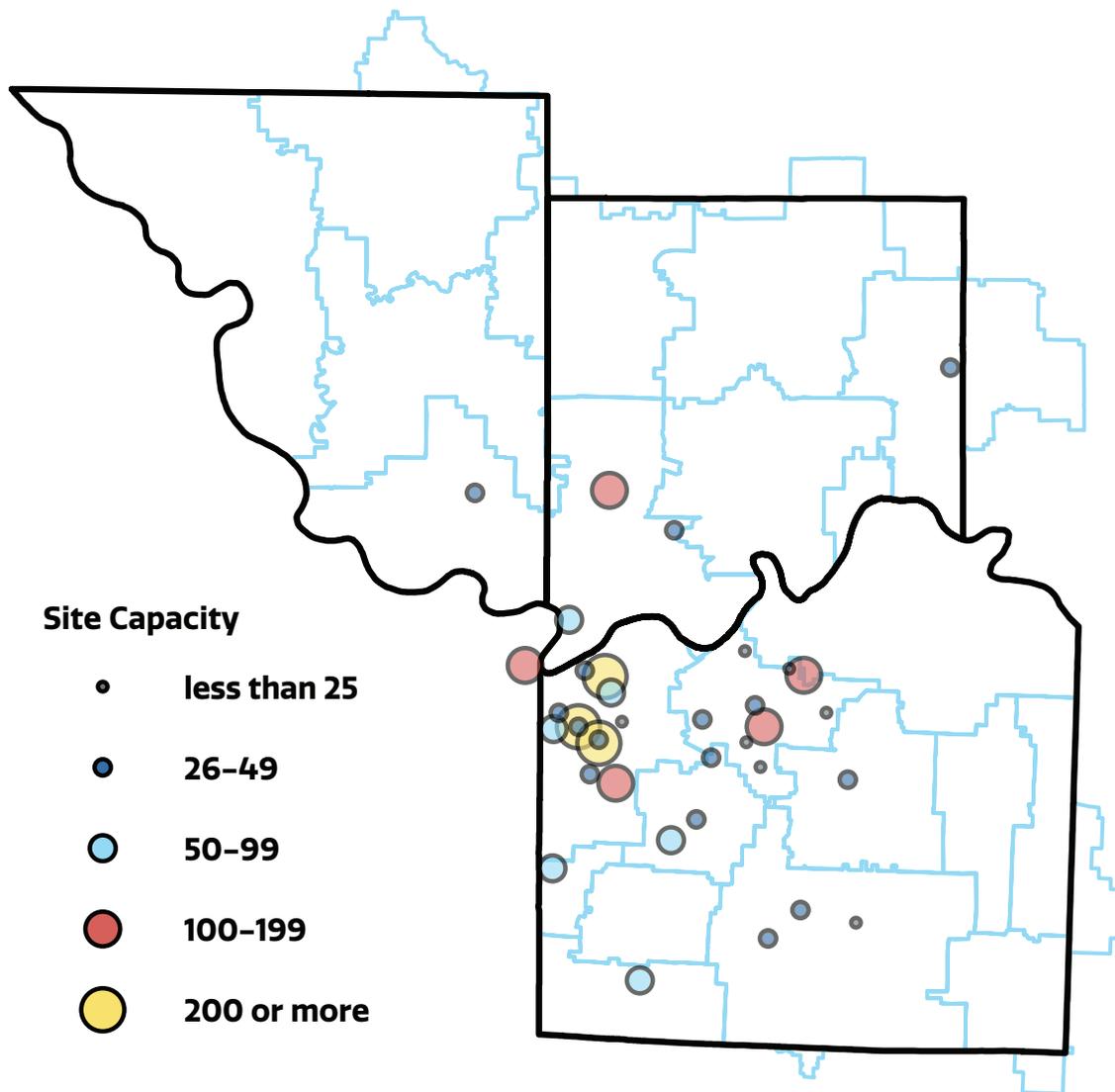
Capacity in each school district and
partner site (2016–2017 program year)



The map above shows the site locations for the 2016–2017 program year. At that time, MARC staff noticed an increase in poverty in the suburbs of Greater Kansas City.

Head Start Site Location and Capacity

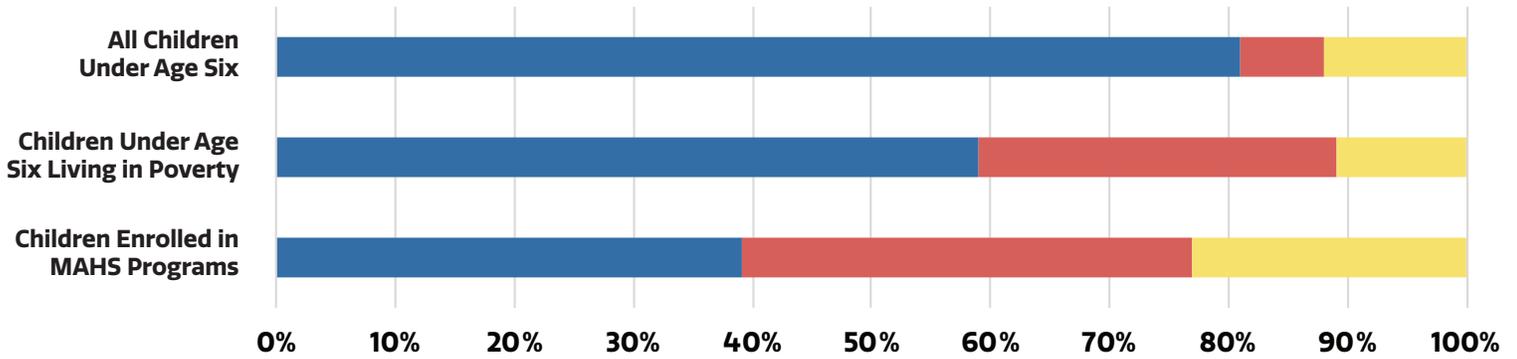
Capacity for each direct service provider
(2019–2020 program year)



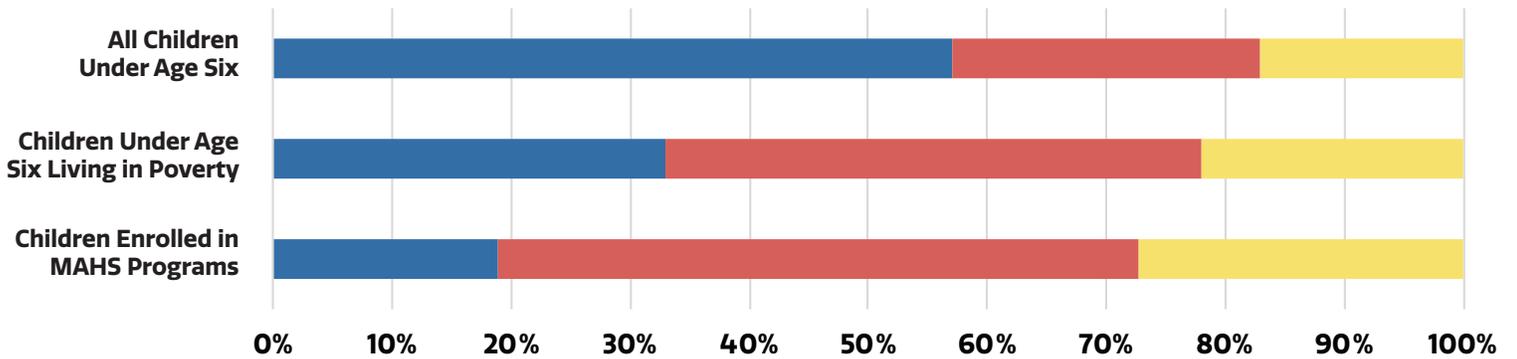
The map above shows the site locations for the 2019–2020 program year. To better address community needs, MARC collaborated with community partners to add Head Start and Early Head Start sites in the suburbs of Blue Springs, Excelsior Springs and Lee’s Summit.

Race and Demographics

Clay County



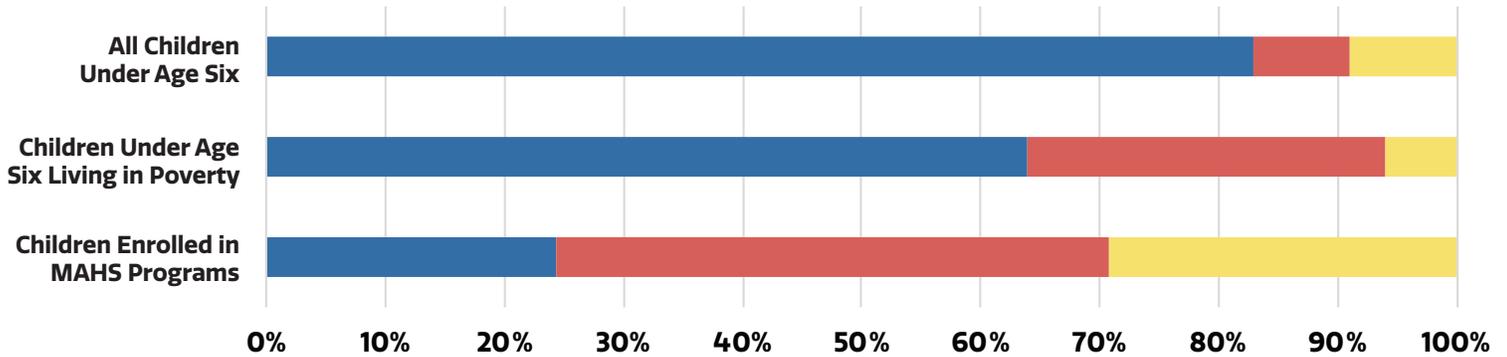
Jackson County



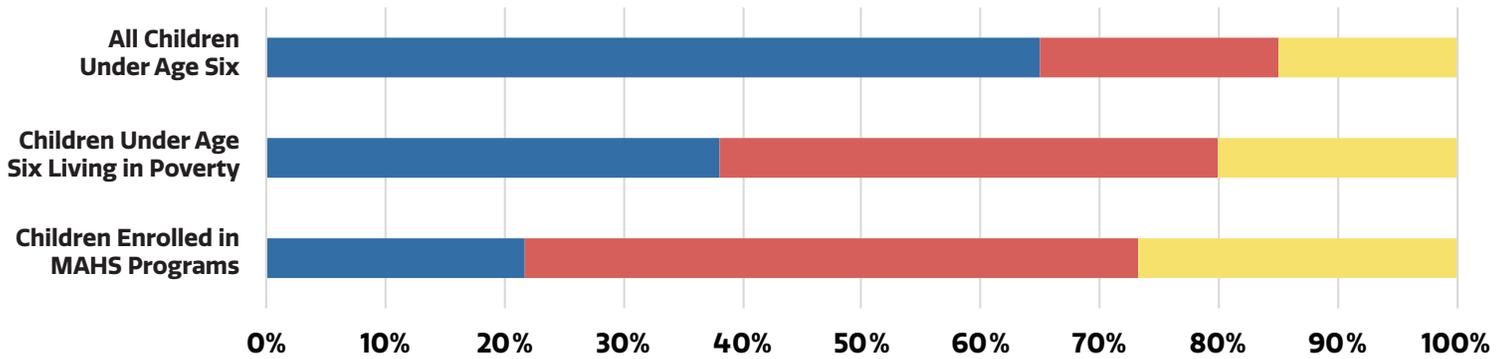
● White ● Black ● Other

Race and Demographics

Platte County



Total

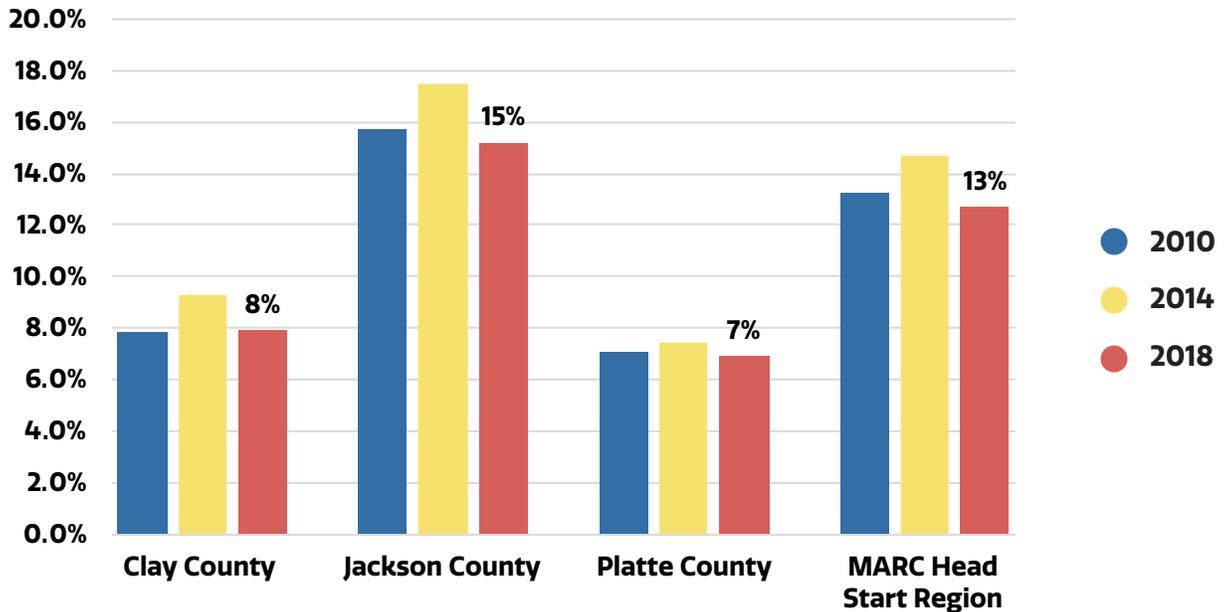


● White ● Black ● Other

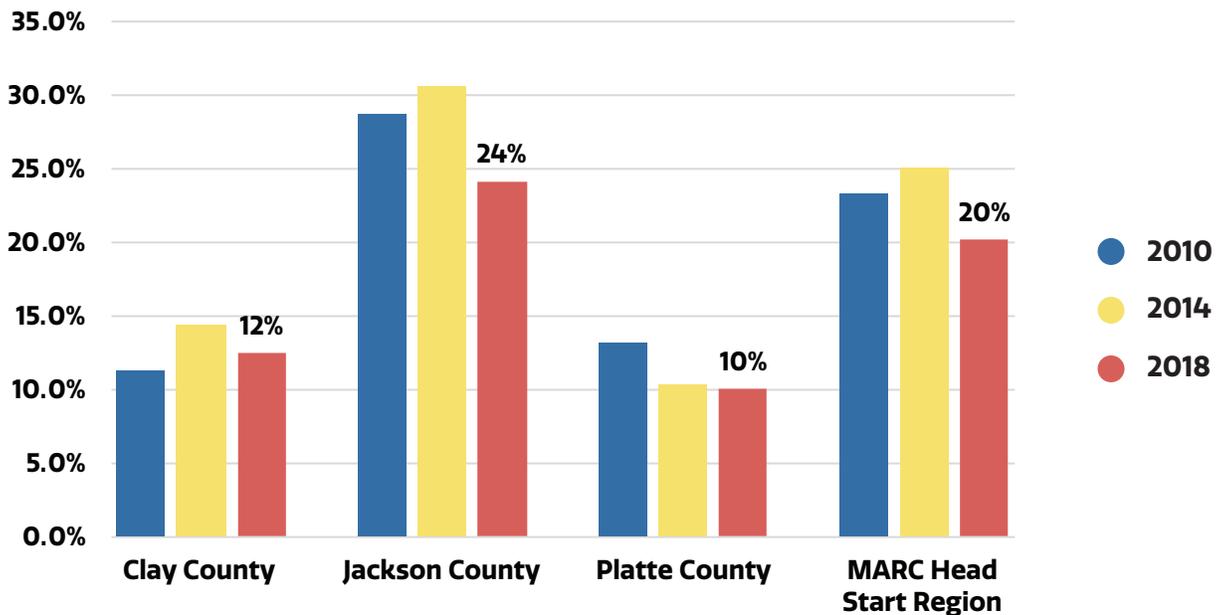
Within the limits of available funding and childcare slots, MARC's Head Start program strives to meet the needs of families and children who could benefit from Head Start services. Currently, 52 percent of children enrolled in a MARC Head Start program are black, 22 percent are white and 27 percent identify as a race other than black or white. The racial background of children enrolled in MARC Head Start classrooms and centers reflects the impact poverty has on racial minorities in Clay, Platte and Jackson counties. Currently, 62 percent of children who live in poverty in the MARC Head Start region are either black or a race other than black or white. Conversely, children who are black or a race other than black or white make up only 35 percent of the population in the region.

Poverty Level

Poverty rate



Poverty rate (children five and under)



Between 2010 and 2018, the percent of people living in poverty in Clay, Platte and Jackson county decreased from 13.2 percent to 12.7 percent, but the number of individuals living in poverty increased at the same time. While the population living in Clay, Platte and Jackson counties increased from 955,359 people to 1,014,480 people, the number of people living in poverty increased from 126,063 to 128,502.

Community Needs

Social service providers by county

County	Housing	Food	Crisis Intervention
Clay	44	38	2
Jackson	139	175	15
Platte	10	13	5

Top needs in MARC Head Start region

Need	Total Need	Unmet Need	Percent Unmet
Electrical Service	17,099	1,386	8.11%
Gas Service	6,795	566	8.33%
Rent Payment	4,645	543	11.69%
Water Service	4,125	279	6.79%
Food Pantries	3,480	126	3.62%

Note: 2-1-1 data was provided by the United Way of Greater Kansas City. Data is from Jan. 1, 2019, through Dec. 31, 2019, thus providing MARC staff a year's worth of data regarding social services available in Clay, Jackson and Platte counties. 2-1-1 data included 58,268 total calls. During that same time period, the need count was 69,164. The need count is higher than the calls received because some callers have multiple need requests.

Dental and Oral Health

MARC's Head Start program partners with oral health providers to ensure Head Start children receive necessary oral health services. Families receive resources to navigate the oral health care system.

In February 2017, MARC's Head Start program hosted an oral health roundtable. More than 30 local and state oral health providers attended. This roundtable focused on outreach opportunities to build an even stronger oral health provider network. Attendees identified oral health concerns and barriers to care.

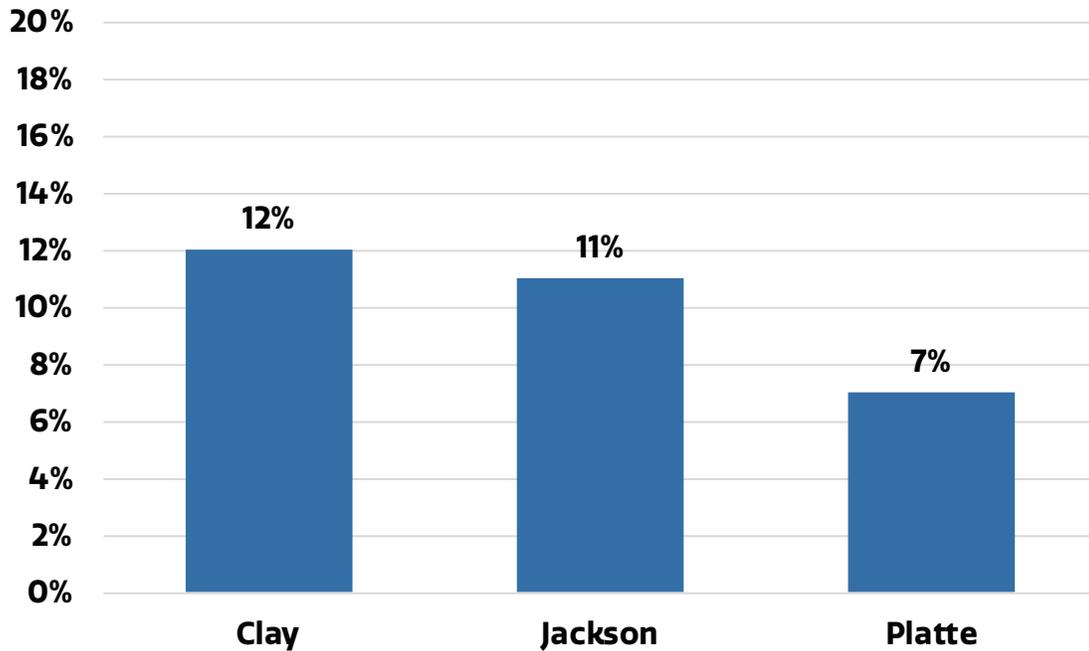
After the roundtable, MARC and providers developed strategies to improve oral health outcomes. In the 2017–2018 program year, 34 percent of children needing oral health care received treatment. In the 2018–2019 program year, 72 percent of children needing care received treatment. The significant growth in treatment opportunities is due to the increase in the number of dental providers who now provide treatment within their clinics for children who do not require local anesthesia.

For children needing more complex oral health rehabilitation, which may require sedation, MARC's Head Start program started a collaborative effort with the KC Children's Surgery Center. Working through MARC Head Start's treatment referral process, KC Children's Surgery Center now provides oral surgery and sedation supported treatment for Head Start children.

MARC's head Start program is continuing efforts to address the lack of available oral health resources, especially in Clay County, Missouri. In collaboration with a federally qualified health center, MARC's Head Start program developed a memorandum of understanding to provide on-site oral health services for this county.

Disabilities

Head start children with disabilities



Note: The data used for this chart is from the 2018–2019 program year.

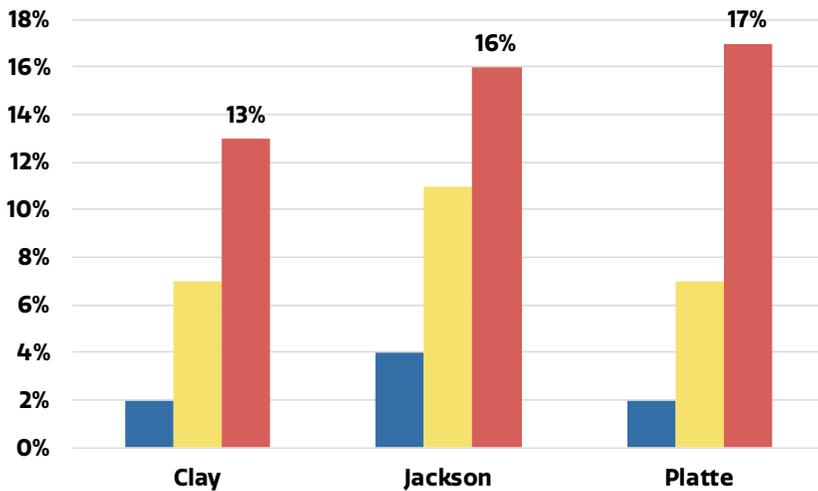
Breakdown of identified disabilities among Head Start children by county

	Clay	Jackson	Platte
Development Delay	37	191	4
Speech Impairment	1	69	2
Autism	2	4	0
Brain Injury	0	0	0
Other*	2	7	0
TOTAL	42	271	6

*Note: One child may have multiple identified disabilities. Disabilities in the "other" category include health impairments, orthopedic disabilities, hearing impairments, orthopedic disabilities, visual disabilities and intellectual disabilities.

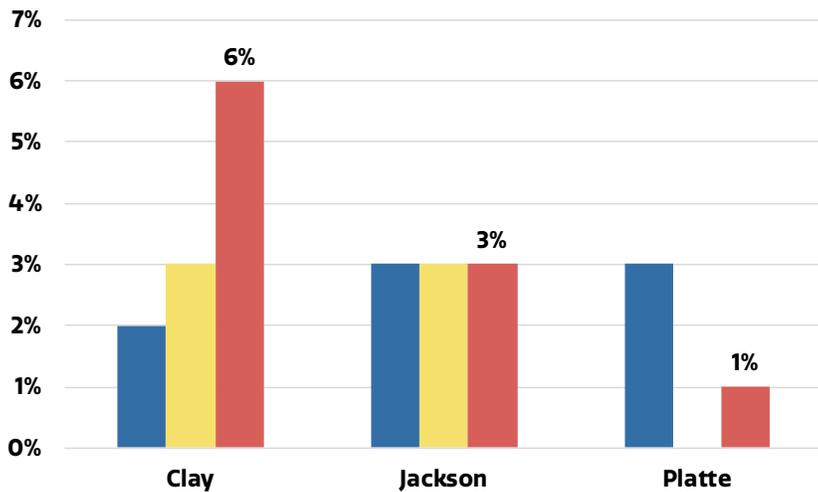
Eligible Children

Percent of Head Start children who qualify as homeless



During the past four years, the percent of children who qualify as homeless and are enrolled in a Head Start program has increased in all three counties. This increase reflects the collaborative and strategic efforts of Head Start programs and staff to reach out to this vulnerable group of children and families.

Percent of Head Start children who are in foster care



● 2012-2013 ● 2015-2016 ● 2019-2020

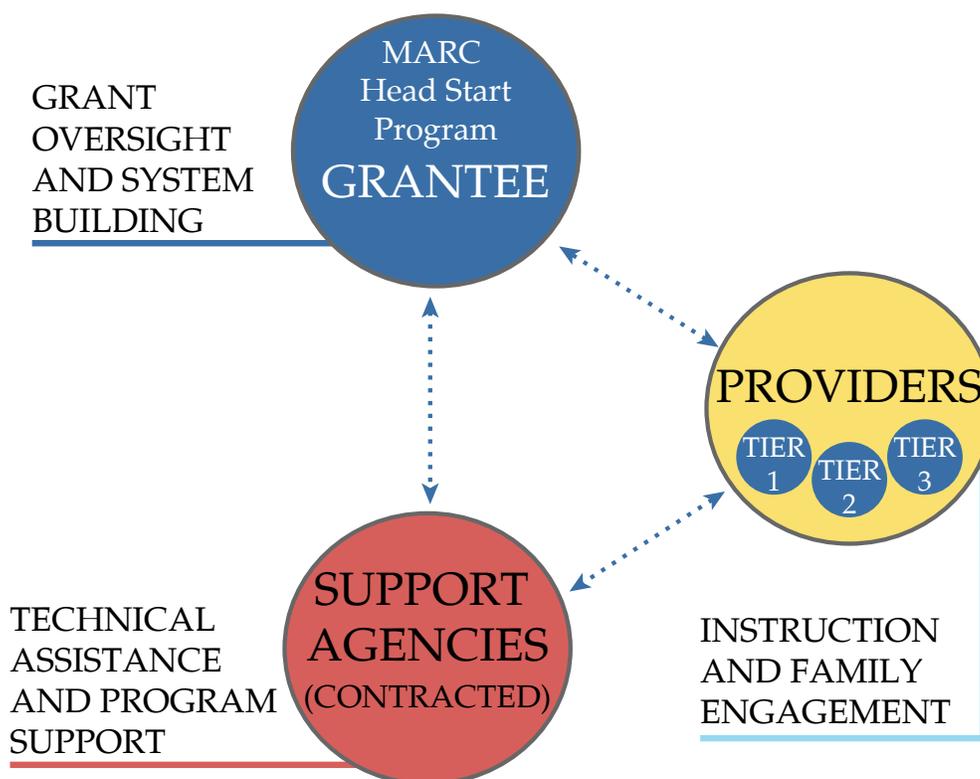
MARC's Head Start program continues to work toward increased enrollment of children in foster care. In the past four years, MARC's Head Start program doubled the percent of enrolled children living in Clay County. In Jackson County, the percent of children who are in foster care and are enrolled in Head Start remained steady over the past eight years. In Platte County, the percent of children who are in foster care and enrolled Head Start increased to 1 percent. The logistics involved in placement of foster care children is challenging. Children in the foster care system typically need enrollment in an early childhood program cannot wait for an opening at a center that is already full. This makes it difficult to find an opening at the right location and at the right time.

Program Structure

MARC's Head Start program transitioned to a new service delivery structure in the 2018–2019 program year. The new structure includes:

- A three-tiered system that differentiates serve providers based on organizational size and available resources.
- A centralized intake system for families that improves access for children and families, serves those with the highest need first and streamlines the enrollment process.
- A professional development system that will help Head Start and Early Head Start teachers, family advocates and program directors develop new skills to improve educational outcomes.

The service delivery model is built on three pillars — the grantee, partners and support agencies — working together to efficiently provide services to families. MARC's Head Start program serves as the administrative and policy arm of this structure. The partners, including school district and community early learning centers, provide comprehensive early childhood services for children and families. The third pillar is support agencies, providing technical assistance and program support.



Summary of Findings

MARC's Head Start program collaborates with early education institutions and community partners to help families reach their full potential. In the process of writing the community assessment, MARC Head Start staff review site location information, demographic information and community needs to develop strategies and solutions for our families and partners.

In the 2017–2018 community assessment, poverty and school district information indicated that families were experiencing poverty in the suburbs and the urban core. The maps on page 3 show new Head Start sites located in Jackson and Clay counties. Sites are now distributed in Clay, Platte and Jackson counties to better serve families where they live and work.

In the past eight years, poverty rates have stabilized for all three counties. While the rate of poverty stabilized, the number of individuals living in poverty actually increased as the overall population size increased. The poverty rate shows that fewer individuals are falling into poverty, but the increased number of people living in poverty demonstrates a continual need to serve families in our region.

During the past four years, MARC's Head Start program made a concerted effort to address the needs of children who qualify as homeless and children with disabilities. During the past four years, the percent of children who qualify as homeless and are enrolled in a Head Start program has increased in all three counties. Additionally, the percent of enrolled children with a disability increased in all three counties.