



2022 COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Lincoln Hills Development Corporation
Head Start Birth-5



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PURPOSE

The Lincoln Hills Development Corporation (LHDC) Head Start Birth-5 Community Assessment is conducted in accordance with Head Start Performance Standard 1305.3(c). The Community Assessment collects and examines updated demographic and relevant community data and information in order to identify the strengths, trends, and needs that impact the design and implementation of the Head Start and Early Head Start program in the LHDC service area consisting of Crawford, Harrison, Perry and Spencer Counties in rural Southern Indiana.

Information from the Community Assessment will be used to help:

- Determine LHDC's philosophy, and its long-range and short-range program objectives;
- Determine the type of component services that are most needed and the program option or options that will be implemented;
- Determine the recruitment area that will be served;
- Determine the appropriate locations for centers/classrooms, and the areas to be served by home-based options;
- Set criteria that define the types of children and families who will be given priority for recruitment and selection.





INTRODUCTION TO LINCOLN HILLS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Lincoln Hills Development Corporation (LHDC), founded in 1965, serves Southern Indiana citizens, primarily in Crawford, Perry, and Spencer Counties. LHDC provides services in seven additional counties (10 total). The agency is funded through a combination of federal, state, and local resources. The primary objective of LHDC is to provide self-help and self-sufficiency opportunities for the low-income citizens of the service area while continually striving to address unmet service needs. LHDC is governed by a volunteer board of directors composed of members representing the low-income community, the private sector, and public officials. The various programs administered by LHDC are guided by policy and advisory councils made up of local volunteers.

Mission Statement

Reducing poverty to improve lives and communities in southern Indiana.

Vision Statement

We believe in economic and social justice for all people across Southern Indiana...now and always.

Equal Opportunity

LHDC provides services to all regardless of age, sex, race, color, religion, disability, national origin, veteran status, genetics, ancestry, sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, or familial status. The agency is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



INTRODUCTION TO HEAD START BIRTH-5

Head Start was one of the first grants the agency received in 1965. Lincoln Hills Development Corporation (LHDC) has been the Head Start grantee in Crawford, Harrison, Perry, and Spencer Counties for 57 years. The agency has provided Head Start services to thousands of families and preschool children, and has provided Early Head Start services for expectant families, infants, and toddlers since 2009.

Head Start Birth-5 currently serves 371 children and pregnant women. Early Head Start provides home-based services to 80 children ages 0-3 years old and expectant families. Head Start provides center-based services to 291 children ages 3-5 years old.

Current Head Start Preschool Program Options include:

- Full Day classes operating 7 hours a day 4 days a week
- Single Session classes operating 4 hours a day 4 days a week
- Double Session classes operating 3.5 hours a day 4 days a week

Current Early Head Start Program Option:

- Home-based children and expectant families receive one 90-minute home visit each week

Head Start Birth-5 encourages parents to build an environment of acceptance to help children develop ethnic pride, self-confidence, increase physical and intellectual strengths, and develop positive social relationships. Children's experiences during the early years are very important to their later achievements in life.

Parents are the primary educators of their children. The program emphasizes parent involvement in planning and carrying out educational activities by taking part in home visits, volunteering in the classroom, socializations, or field trips, attending Parent Committee Meetings, and becoming a Policy Council representative.

The LHDC Head Start Birth-5 Policy Council is an active, vital and critical component of the LHDC Head Start and Early Head Start programs. The Policy Council's role of shared governance and responsibility, in partnership with the LHDC Board of Directors, is essential to assuring that all interests are represented in the decision-making and policy-making process that occurs within the programs.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This 2022 Head Start Birth-5 Community Needs Assessment was conducted by Lincoln Hills Development Corporation (LHDC) Head Start Birth-5 to identify significant community needs and to inform Head Start program planning to address current early childhood education needs in Crawford, Harrison, Perry, and Spencer counties. Based on an assessment of data at the county level and program level, the following were identified as significant data to inform program decisions.

Poverty

- Overall poverty rates increased from 2000 to 2020: Crawford Co. 15.6%, Harrison Co. 8.8%, Perry 12.3%, and Spencer 7.9%. Each of the four counties increased the percentage of the population in poverty by at least 1.6% with Perry County increasing by 3.3% since 2000.
- Child poverty rates for 2020 for PreK children were: Crawford Co. 12.9%, Harrison 14%, Perry 41.8%, and Spencer 20.9%. The 2020 Median Household Income for counties within the LHDC Head Start service area: Crawford Co. \$46,884, Harrison Co. \$62,082, Perry \$44,011, and Spencer \$66,667.
- Perry County's median income decreased by \$8,321, while Crawford, Harrison and Spencer County's median income increased. Spencer County had the highest increase of \$4,730.
- For 2020 the following percents of students in LHDC Head Start service area participated in Free and Reduced lunch: Crawford Co. 60.4%, Harrison Co. 45%, Perry Co. 47.1%, and Spencer 36.2%.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (CONTINUED)

Education

- Adult education is a significant issue within the LHDC service area. The following percentages reflect persons 25 years of age and over who have not attained a high school diploma: Crawford Co. 17%, Harrison Co. 10%, Perry Co. 10%, and Spencer Co. 9%.
- Adults with a level 3 functional literacy level are below the Indiana average of 44%: Crawford Co. 29%, Harrison Co. 41%, Perry Co. 34%, and Spencer Co. 40%.
- Low percentages of adults who attained a High School diploma or higher and low functional literacy levels make it difficult to hire qualified staff.
- According to the 2022 LHDC Head Start Program Information Report (PIR), 31% of enrolled Head Start participants were diagnosed with a disability while 7.6 % of Early Head Start participants were diagnosed with a disability. This indicates a significant need for specialized and individualized educational services within the LHDC service area.
- Quality affordable childcare options are limited in the LHDC Head Start service area with Crawford County having the highest need. Crawford County has two licensed centers with a capacity of 91 students. Both licensed centers are operated by LHDC Head Start Birth-5 for preschool age children. There are no licensed facilities for infants and toddlers.
- Harrison county has the lowest need with the increased number of On My Way PreK options for families. Harrison has 24 licensed facilities with a total enrollment of 494 slots and 115 public school PreK slots. Harrison Co increased by 100 slots since 2020.



METHODOLOGY

In accordance with the federal Head Start Program Performance Standards (45CFR1302.11) and Head Start Act, Head Start Birth-5 conducted a Community Assessment in 2022. The following information was gathered, reviewed, and used to effectively plan five year goals to support the growth of families and children within the service area:

- Population
- Demographic information
- Family Structure
- Education
- Literacy
- Employment
- Industry and Median Income
- Poverty
- Housing
- Homelessness
- Public Assistance
- Licensed Childcare
- Public Pre K
- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Domestic Violence
- Disabilities
- Substance Abuse
- Pregnancy and Birth
- Health
- LHDC Survey Data



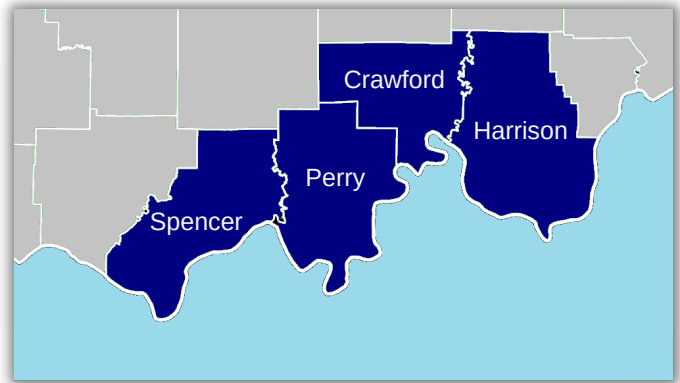
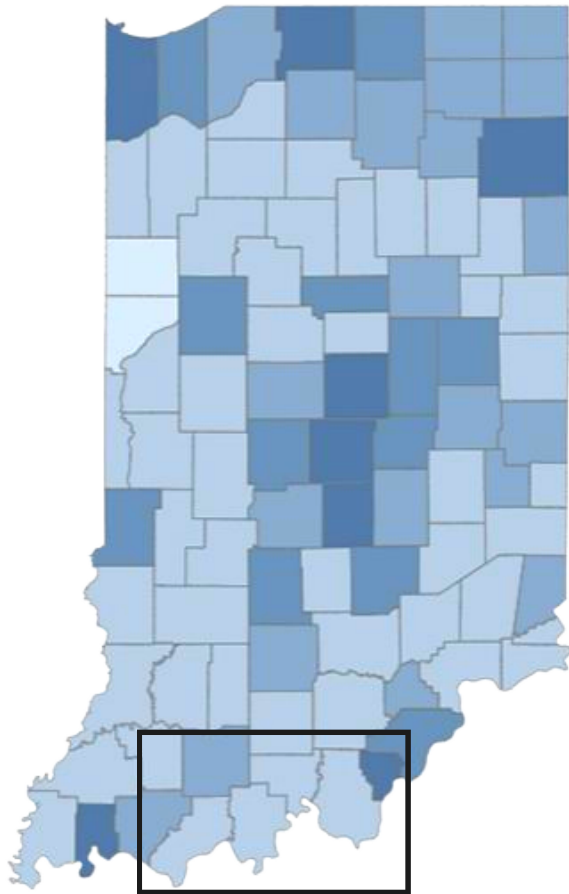
METHODOLOGY (CONTINUED)

Specifically, the following reports and information were used to develop a picture of the community and eligible Head Start families:

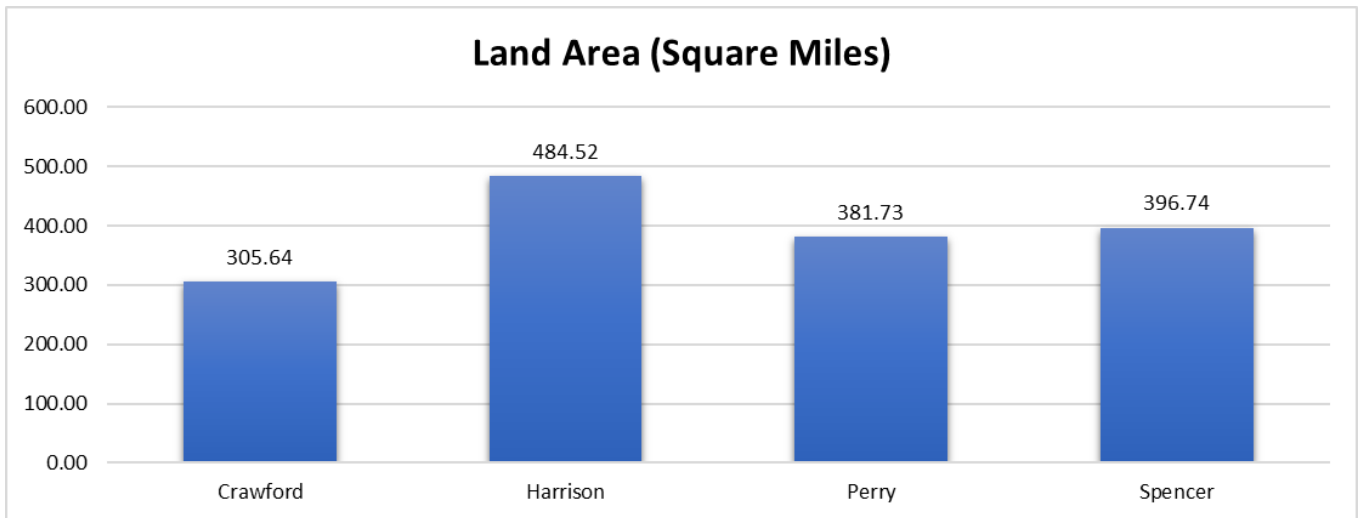
- Financial Hardship in LHDC Service Area
- FRED Economic Data
- FSSA
- U.S. Census 2020
- Google Maps
- IHEDA
- Indiana Department of Child Services
- Indiana Department of Education
- Indiana.gov
- Indiana Criminal Justice Institute
- KidsCount Data Center
- LHDC Community Needs Assessment 2020
- LHDC Head Start/Early Head Start Program Data
- 2021-2022 LHDC Head Start/Early Head Start Program Information Reports
- National Center for Education Statistics
- Prosperity Indiana
- Purdue University
- STATS America
- STATS Indiana
- USA.com
- US News



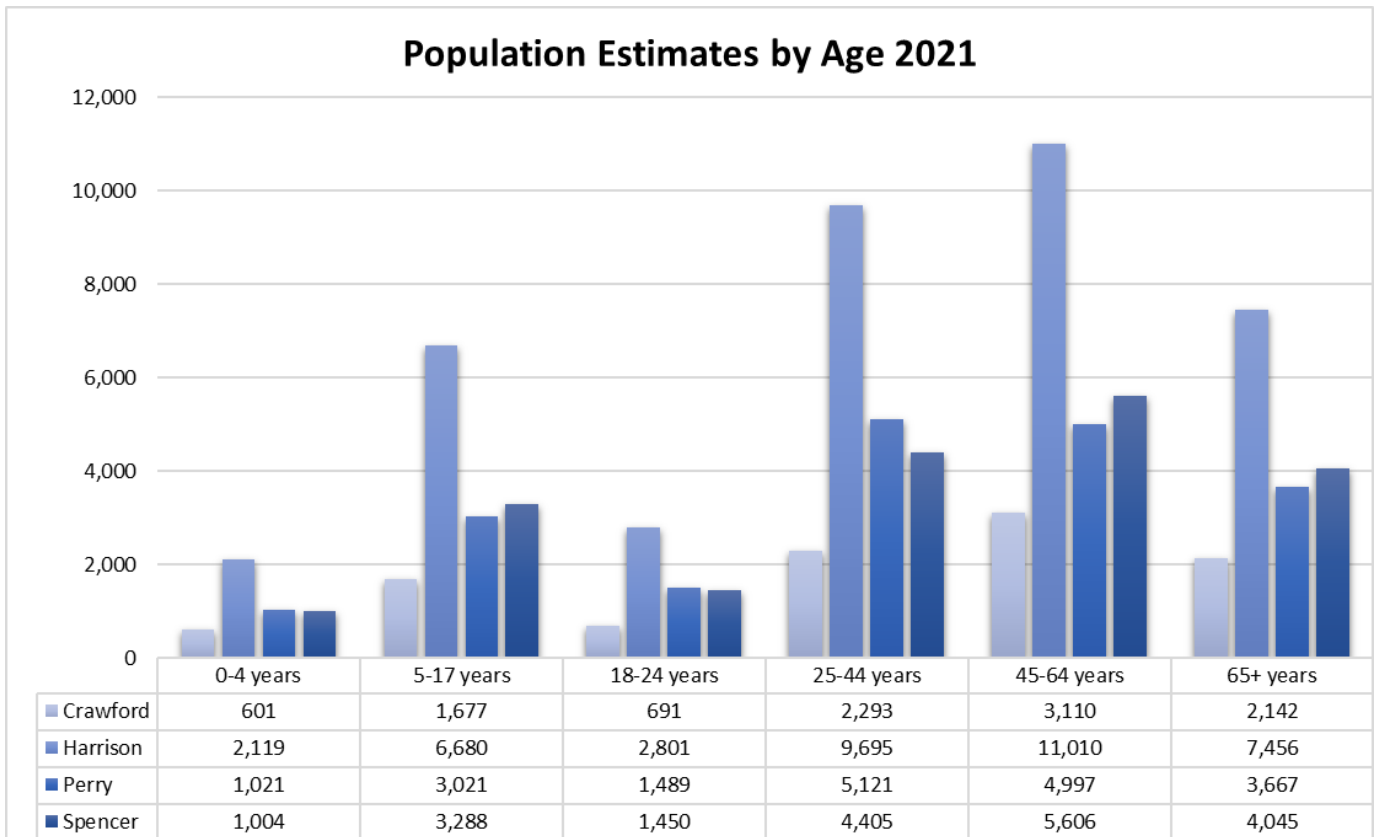
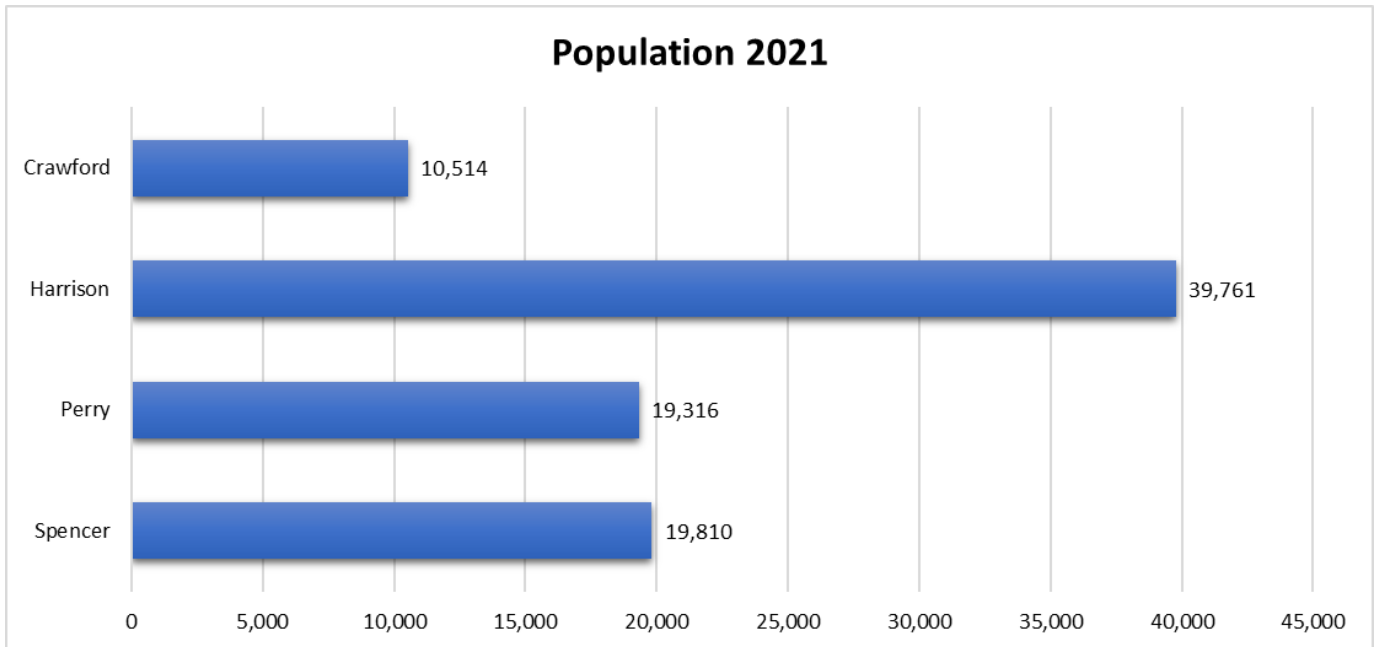
SERVICE AREA



People per square mile

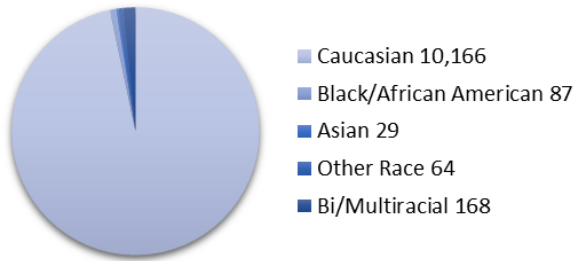


POPULATION

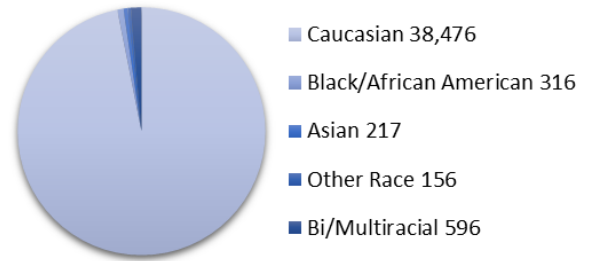


RACE

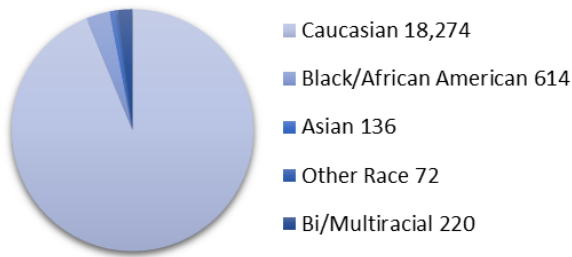
**Crawford County
Race Estimates 2021**



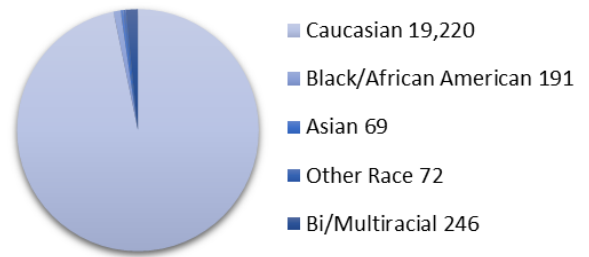
**Harrison County
Race Estimates 2021**



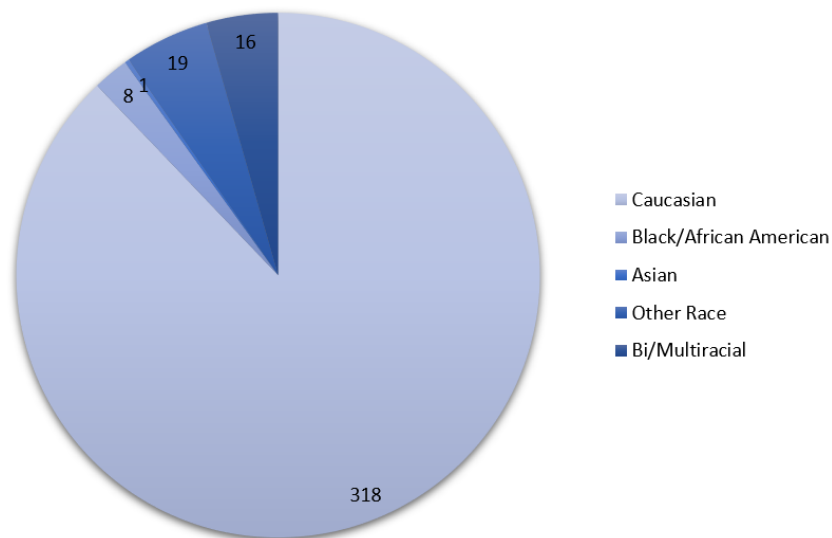
**Perry County
Race Estimates 2021**



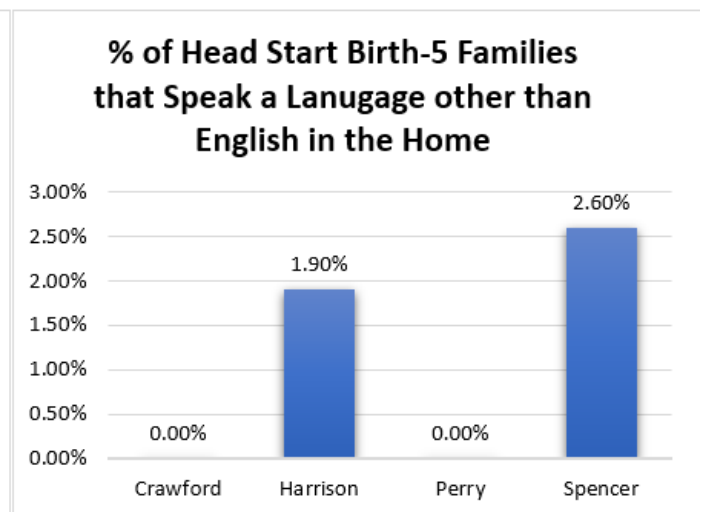
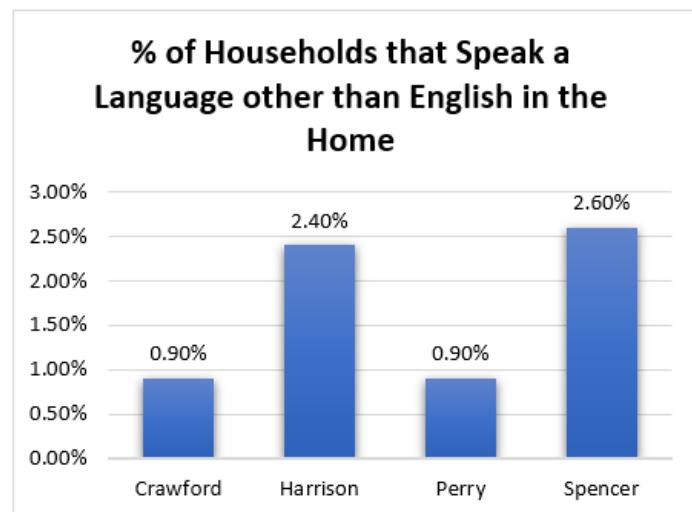
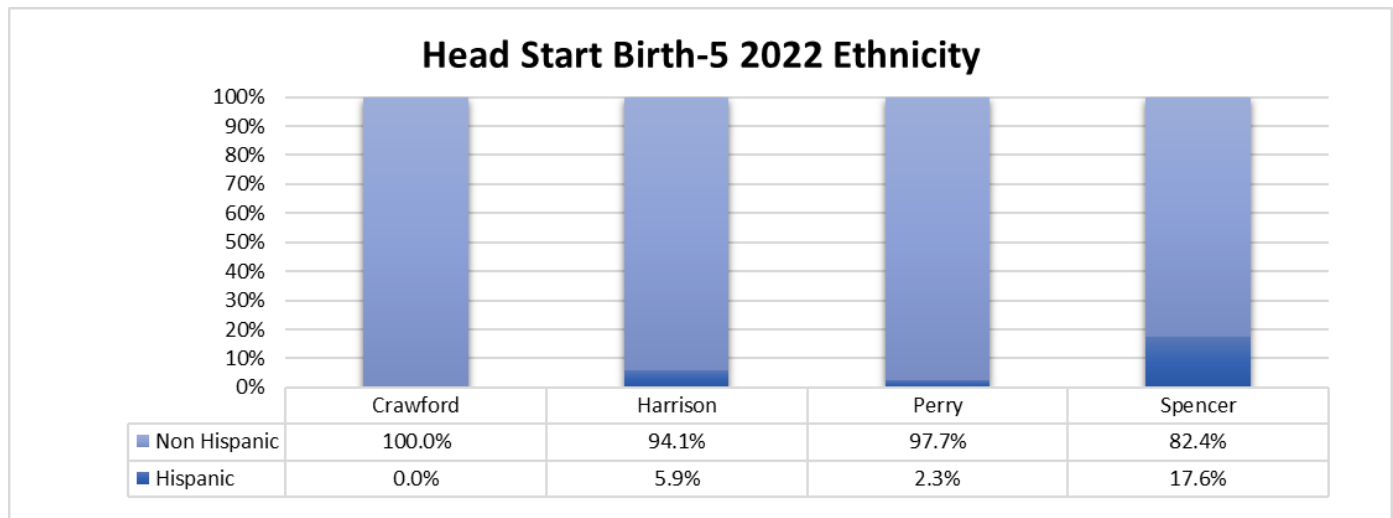
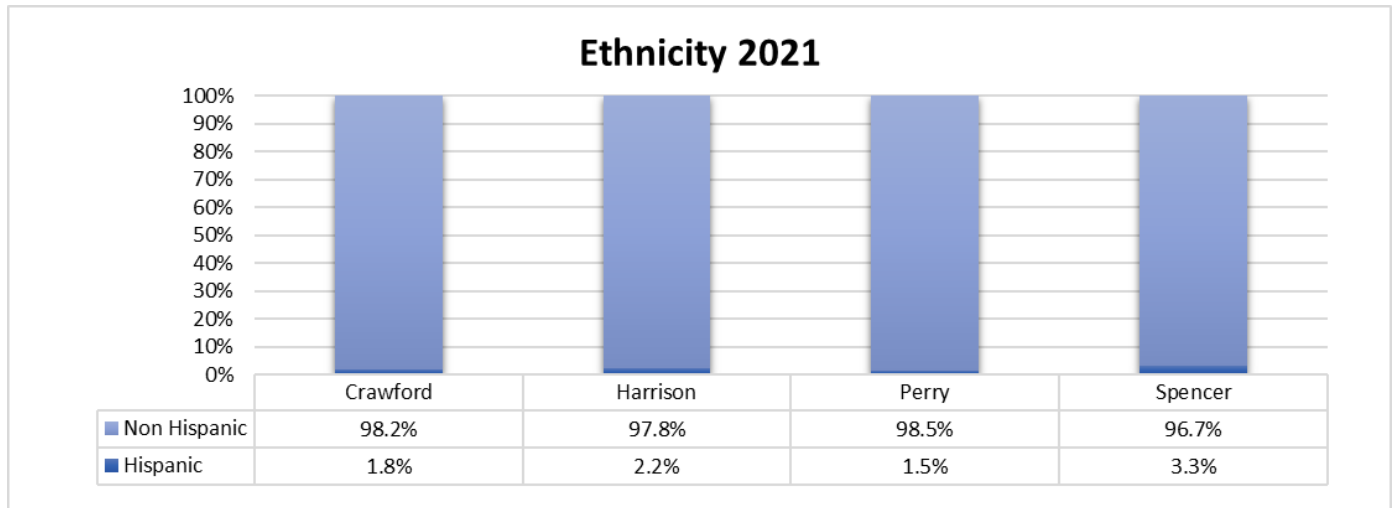
**Spencer County
Race Estimates 2021**



**Head Start Birth-5
2022 Race**



ETHNICITY AND LANGUAGE

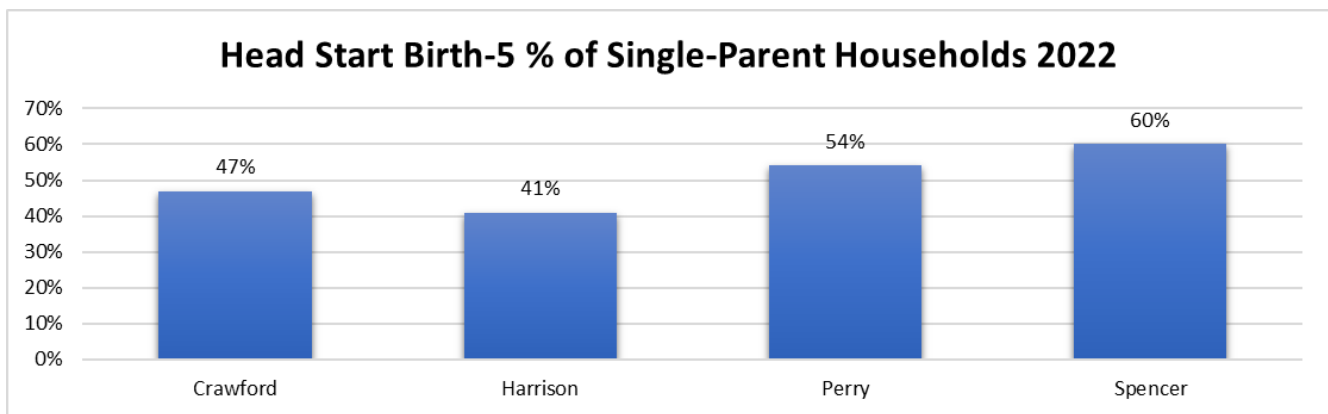
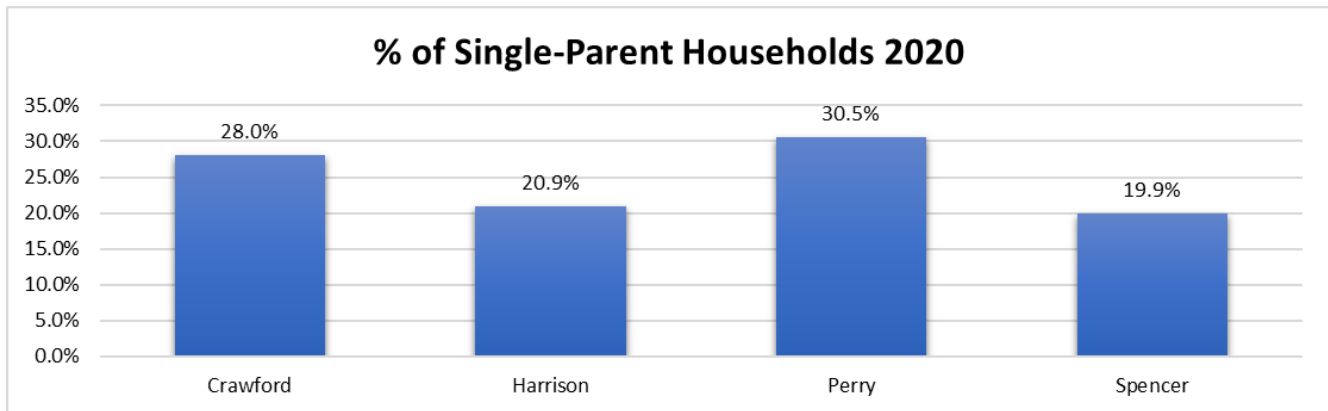
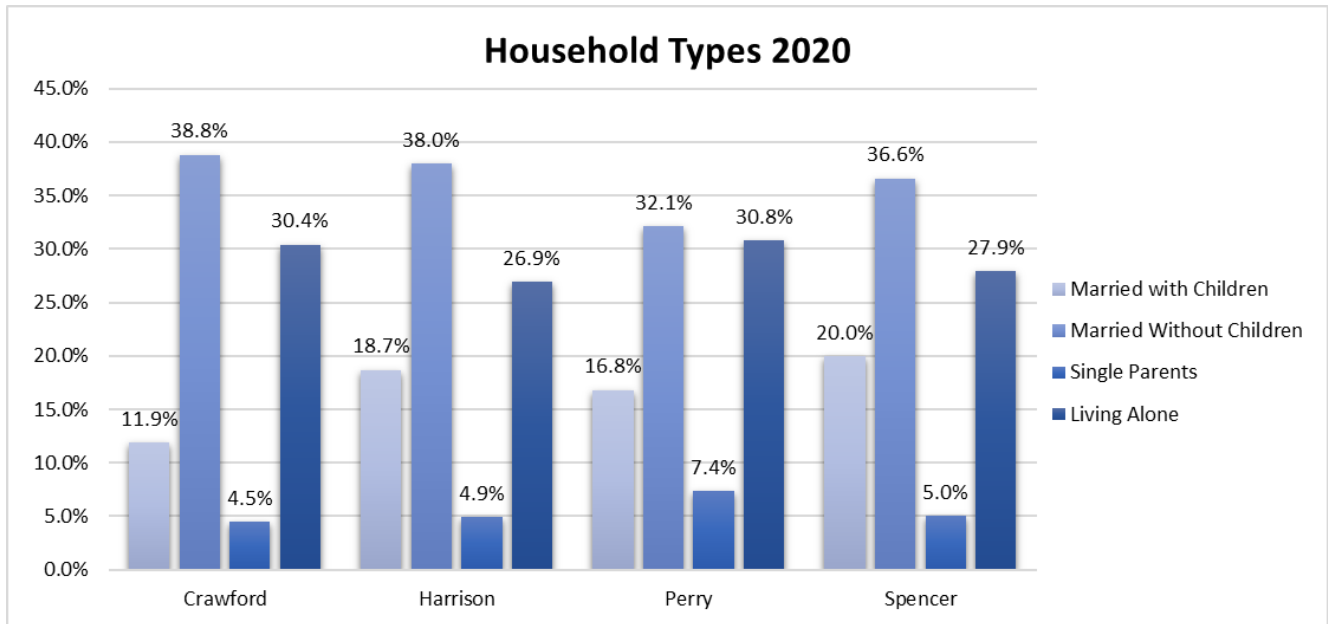


*STATS America

*US Census 2020

*2022 LHDC Program Information Report

FAMILY STRUCTURE

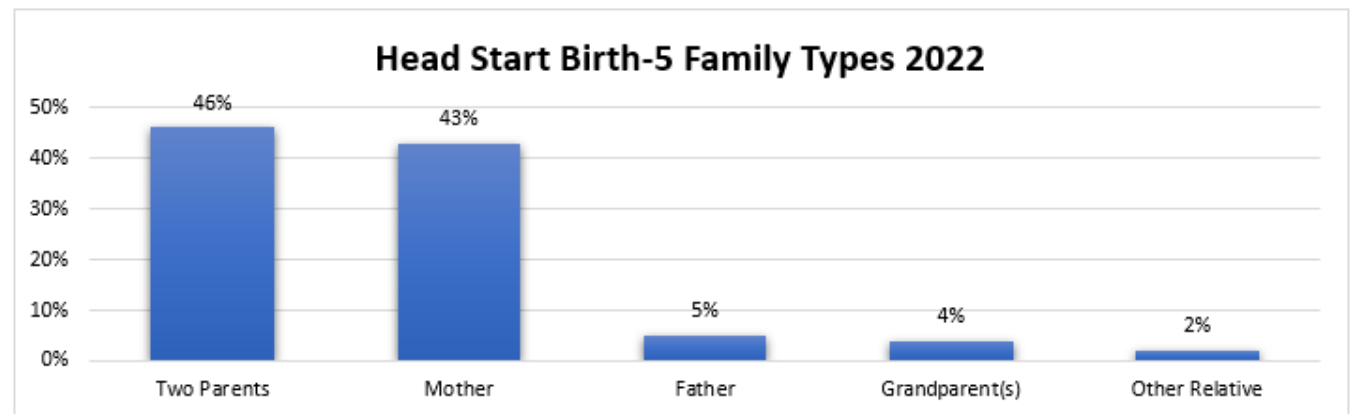
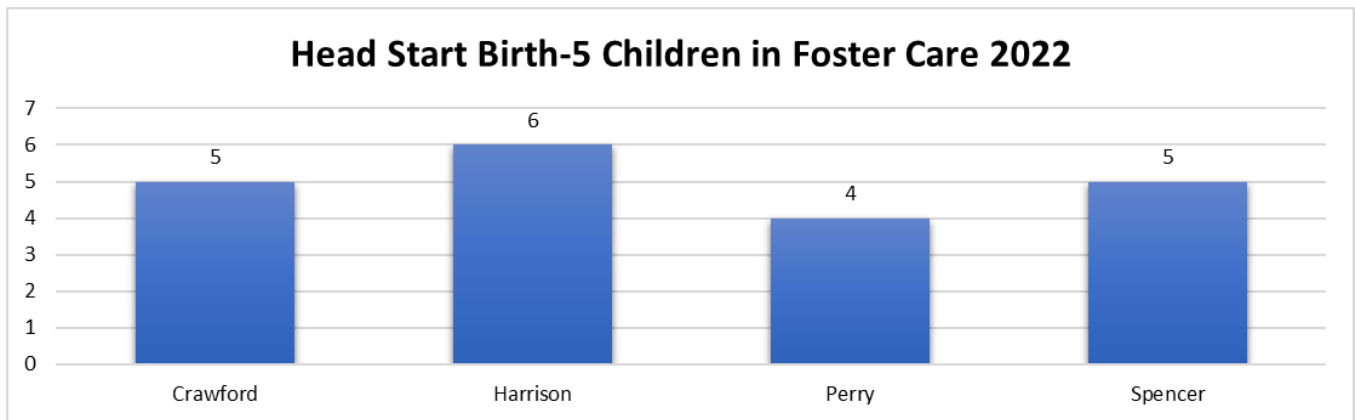
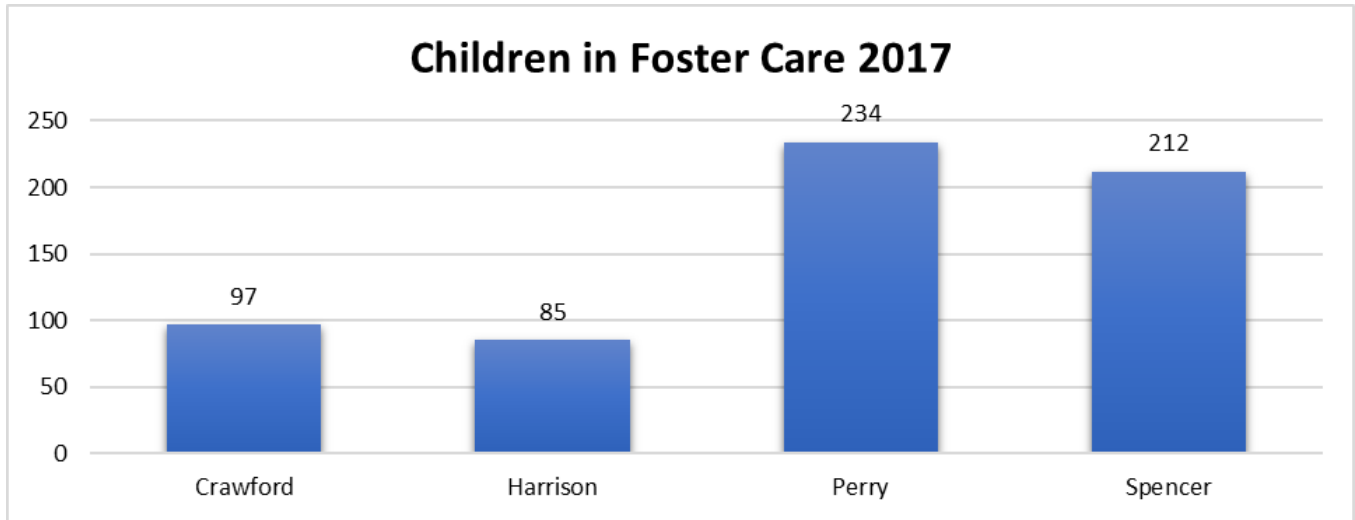


*US Census Data 2020

*FRED Economic Data

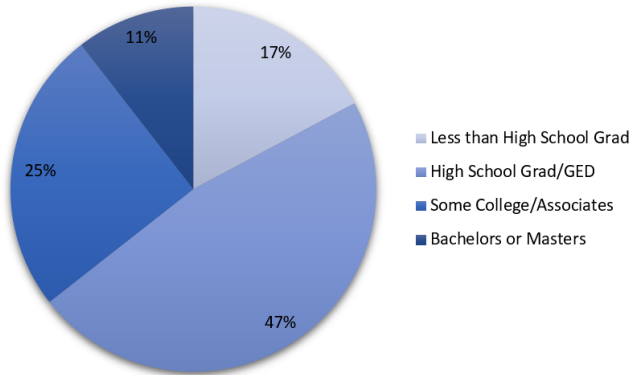
*2022 LHDC Program Information Report

FAMILY STRUCTURE (CONTINUED)

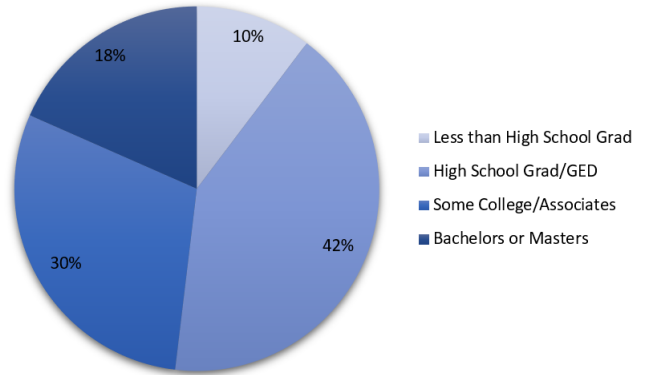


EDUCATION

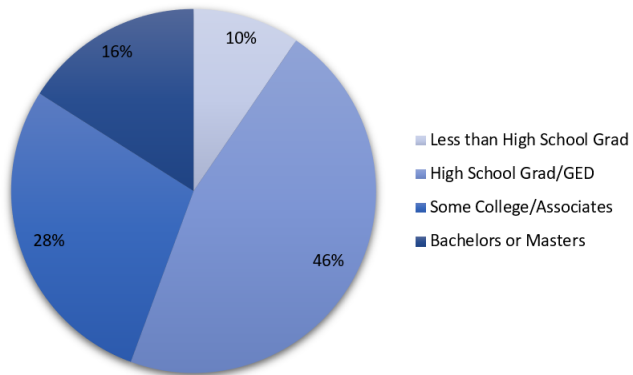
Crawford County Educational Attainment 2020



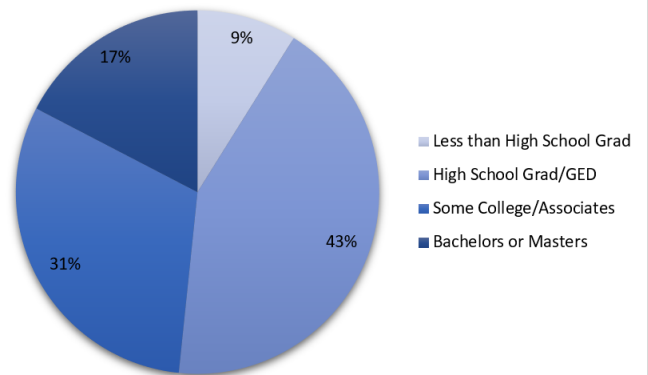
Harrison County Educational Attainment 2020



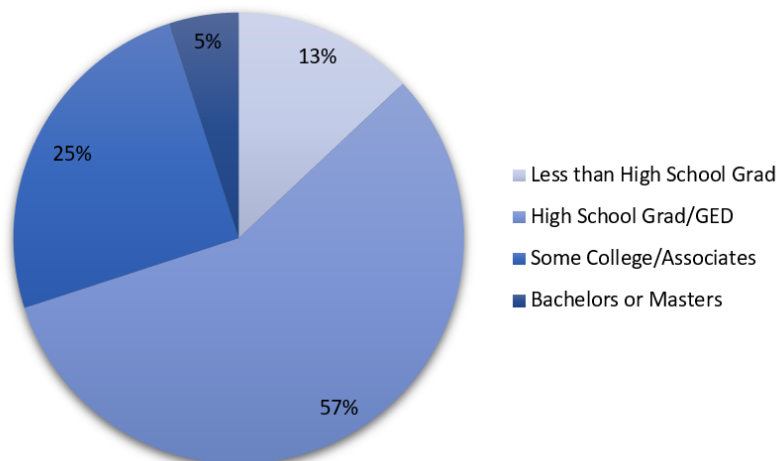
Perry County Educational Attainment 2020



Spencer County Educational Attainment 2020



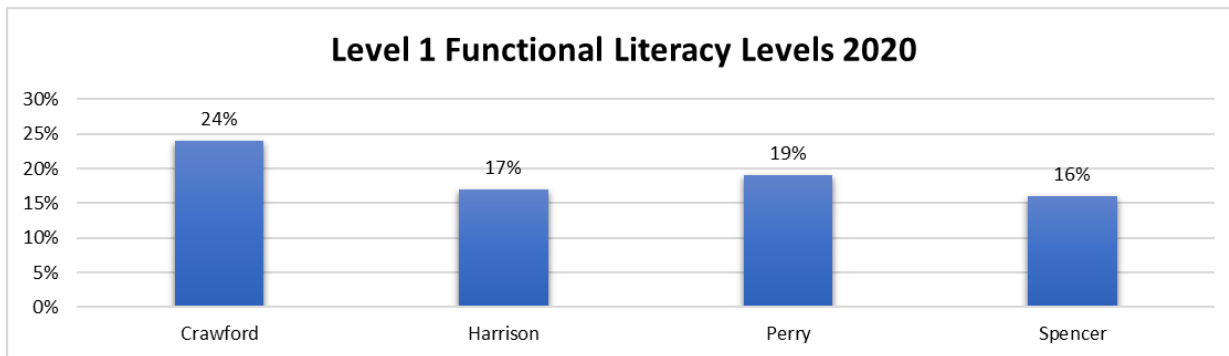
Head Start Birth-5 Educational Attainment 2022



*US Census 2020

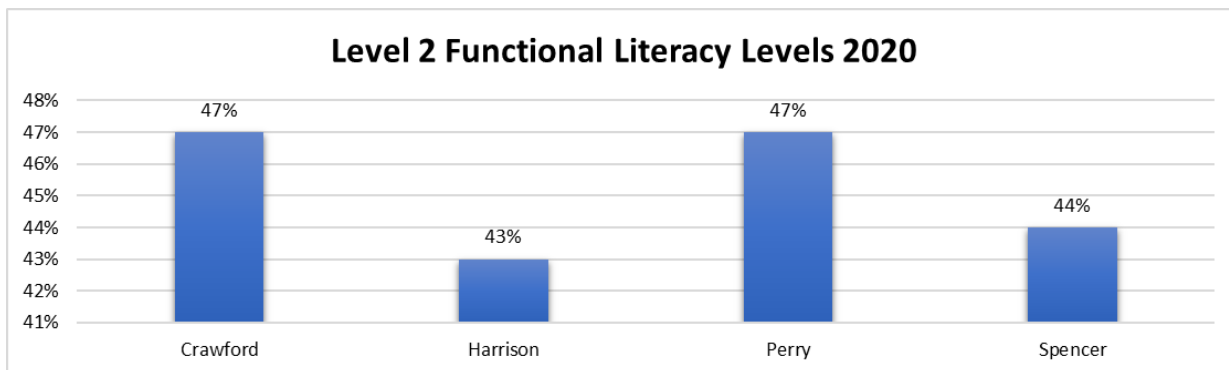
*2022 LHDC Program Information Report

LITERACY



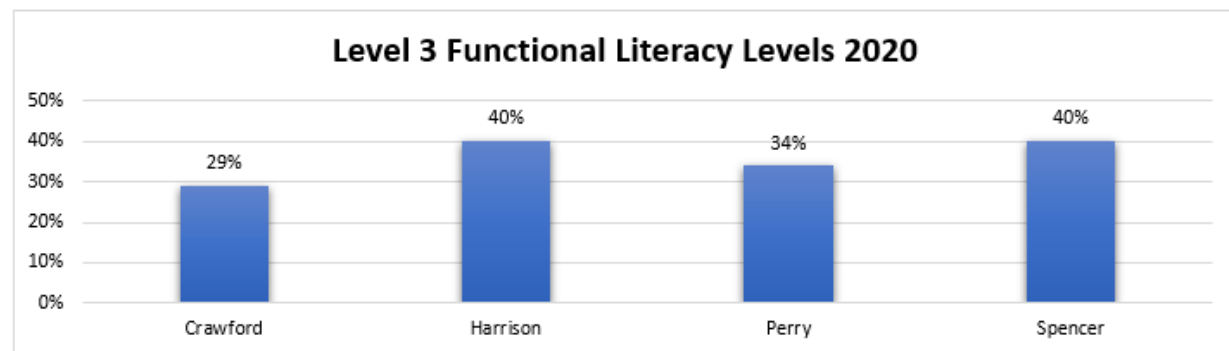
Adults at this level can be considered at risk for difficulties using or comprehending print material. Adults at the upper end of this level can read sort texts, in print or online, and understand meaning well enough to perform simple tasks.

The Indiana Level 1 Functional Literacy Average is 19%.



Adults at this level can be considered nearing proficiency but still struggling to perform tasks with text-based information. Such adults may be able to read print and digital texts, relate multiple pieces of information within or across a couple documents, compare and contrast, and draw simple inferences.

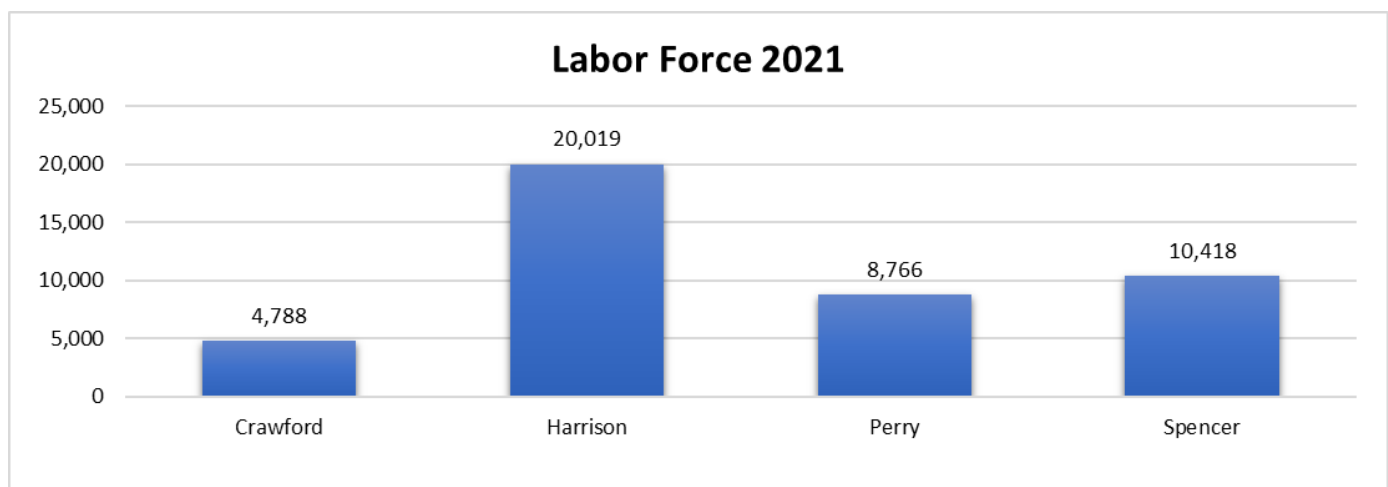
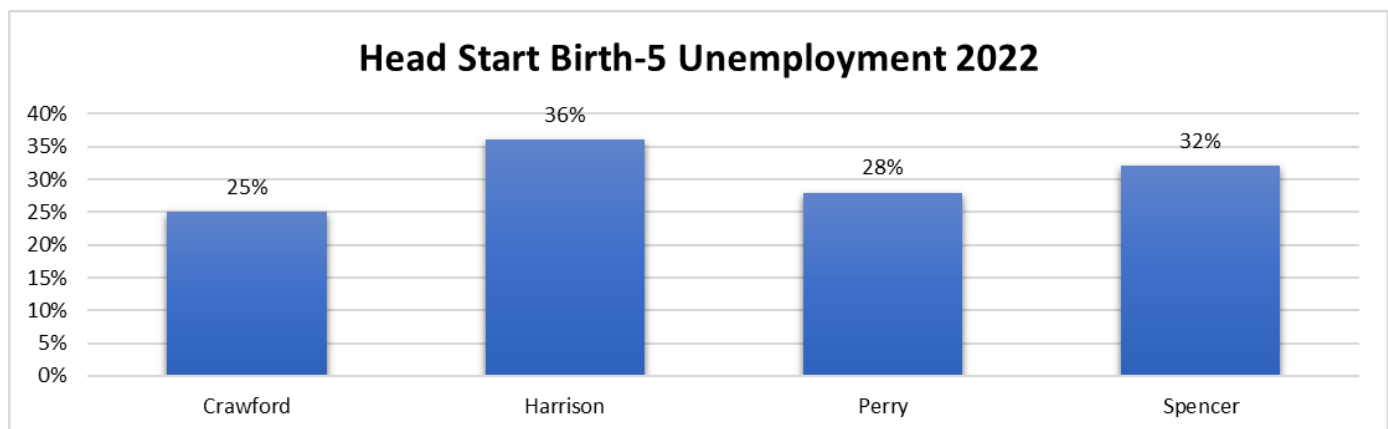
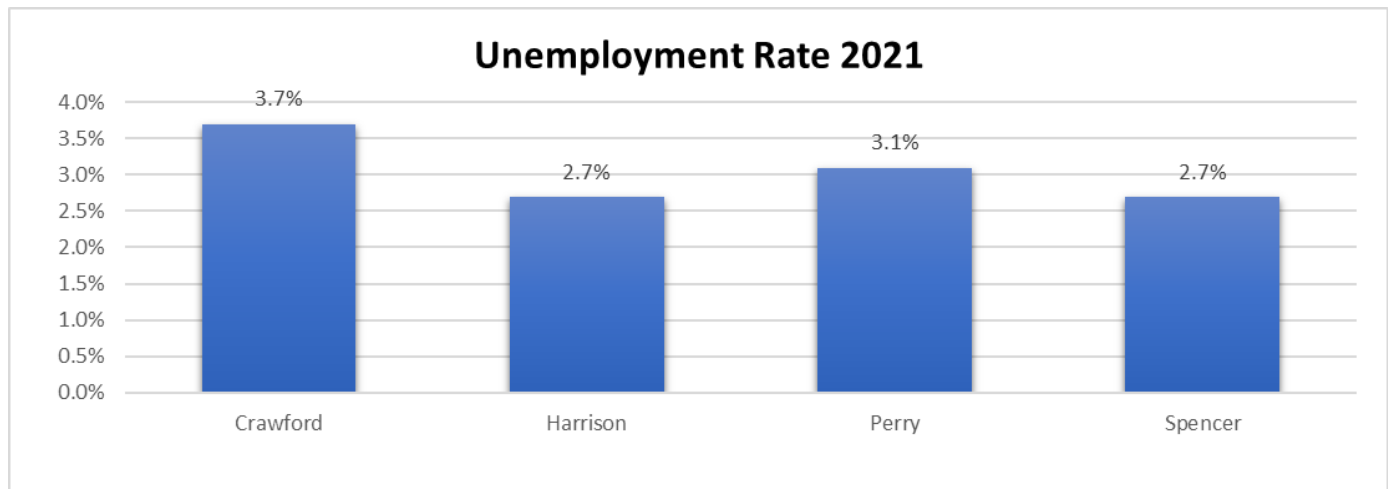
The Indiana Level 2 Functional Literacy Average is 32%.



Adults at this level can be considered proficient at working with information and ideas in texts. They have a range of higher literacy skills from the ability to understand, interpret, and synthesize information across multiple, complex texts to the ability to evaluate the reliability of sources and infer sophisticated meanings and complex ideas from written sources.

The Indiana Level 3 Functional Literacy Average is 44%.

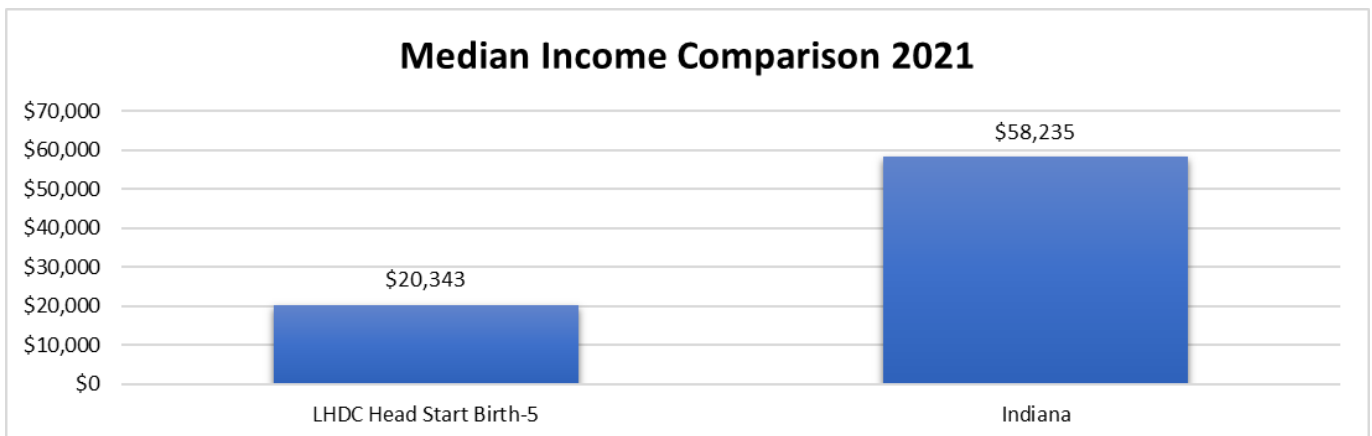
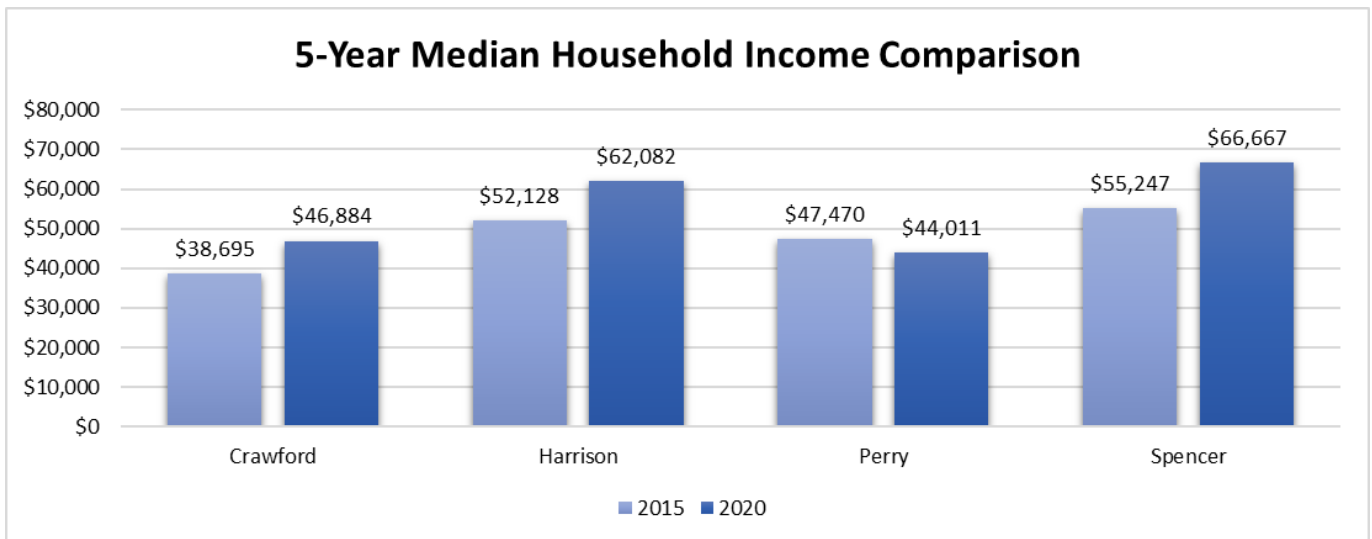
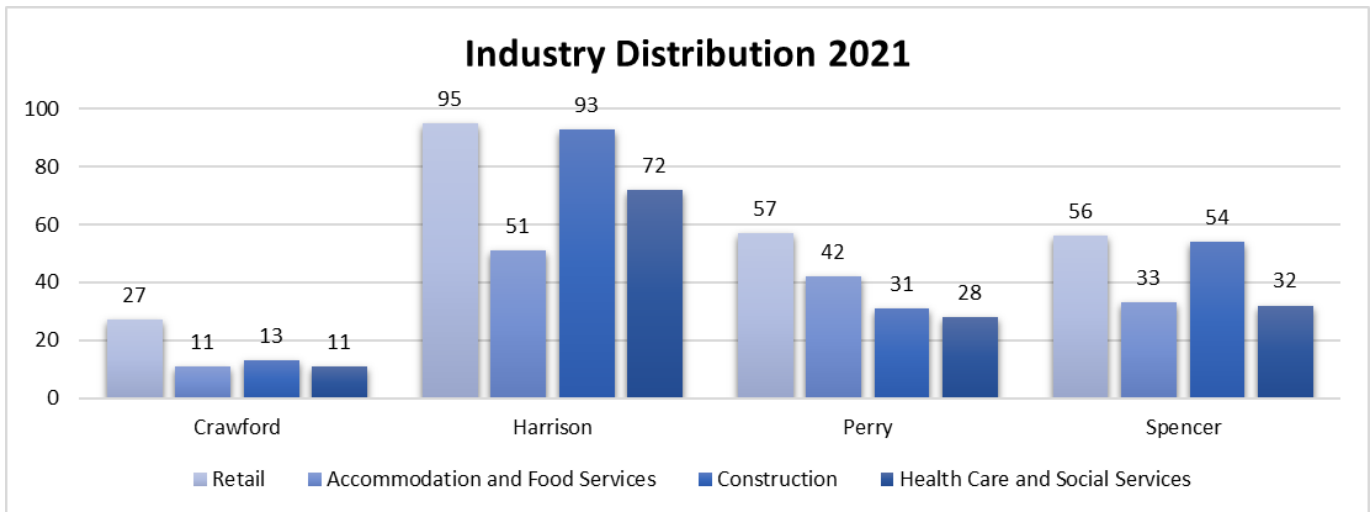
EMPLOYMENT



*US Census 2020

*2022 LHDC Program Information Report

INDUSTRY AND MEDIAN INCOME

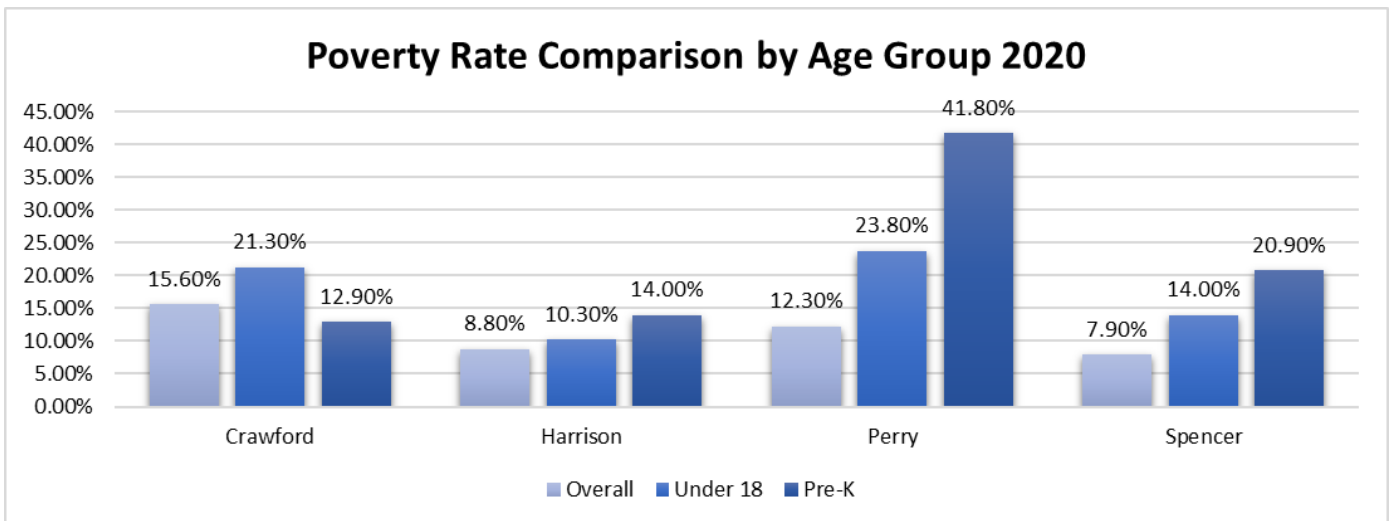
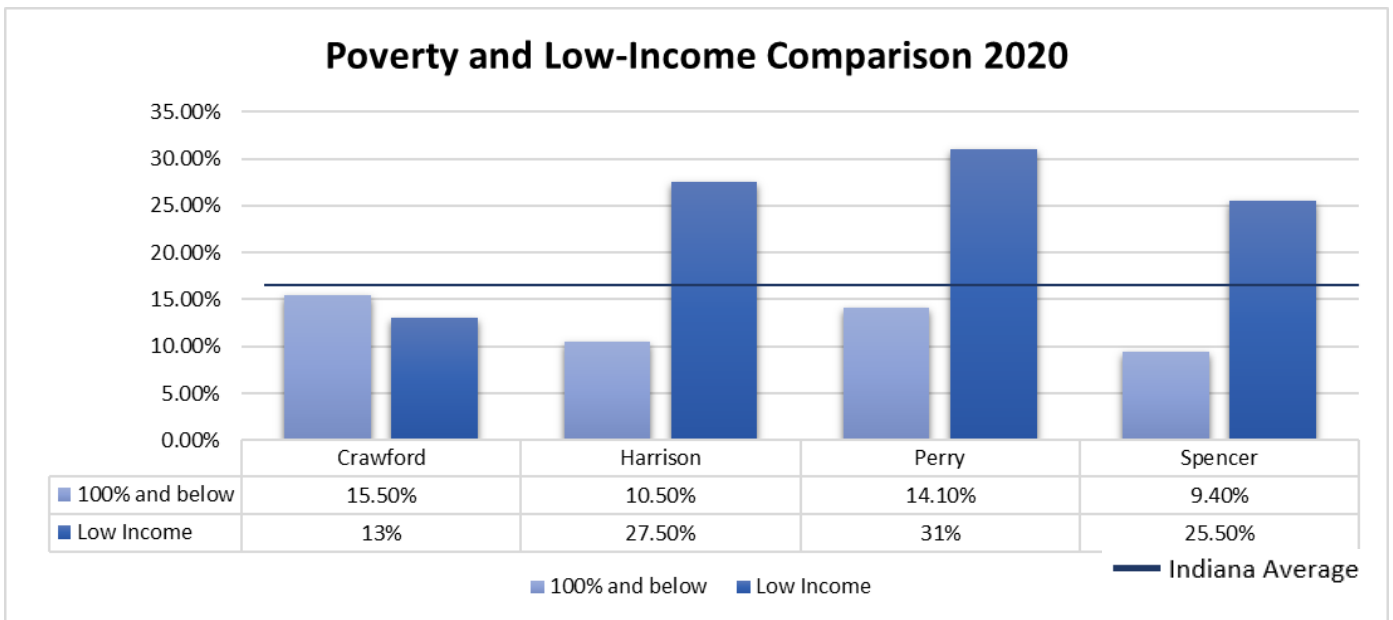
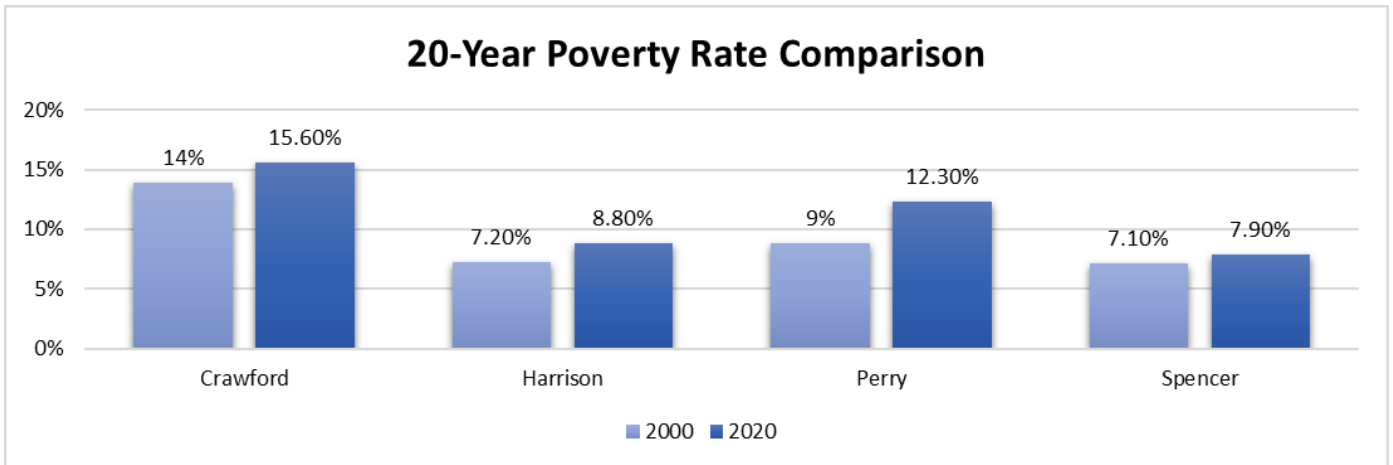


*Census 2020

*KidsCount in Indiana

*2022 LHDC Head Start Birth-5 Data

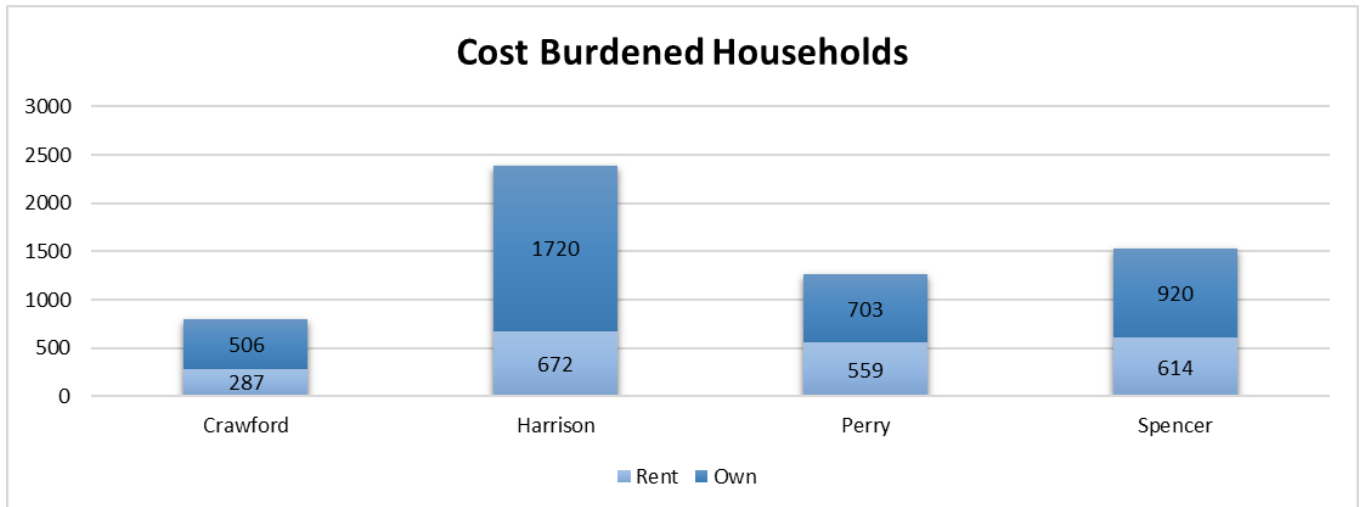
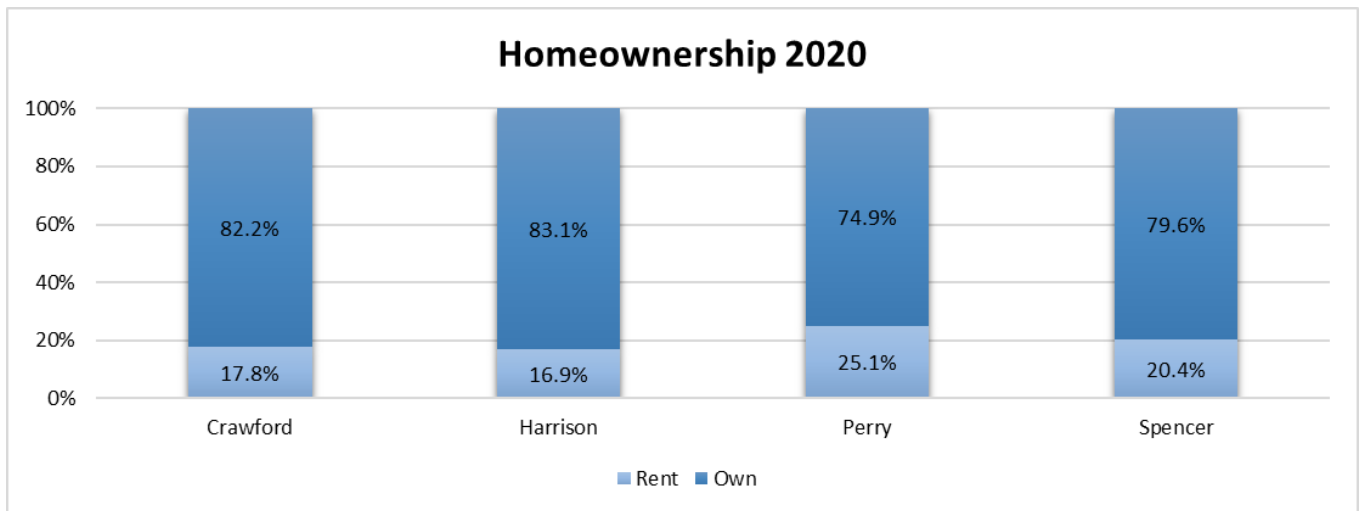
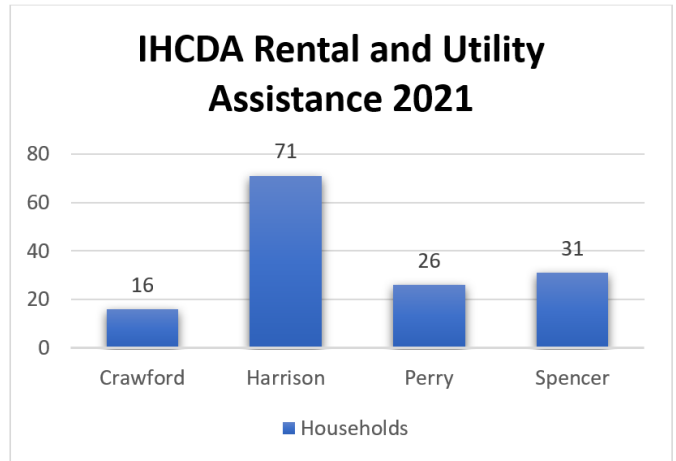
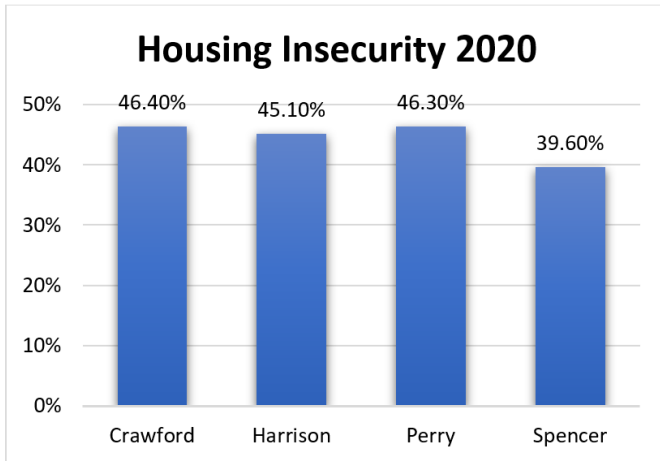
POVERTY



*US Census 2000 and 2020

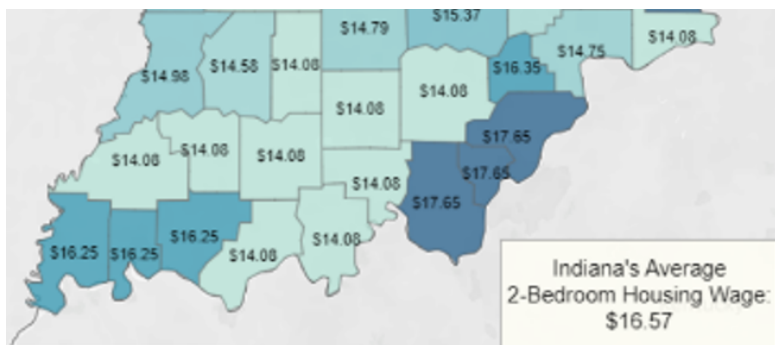
*KidsCount Data Center

HOUSING



Cost burdened households are those putting more than 30% of their household income towards housing expenses.

HOUSING (CONTINUED)

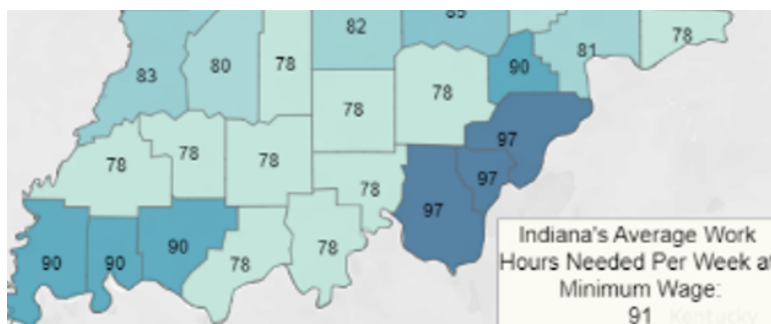


Hourly Wage Needed to Afford a 2-Bedroom Fair Market Rental:

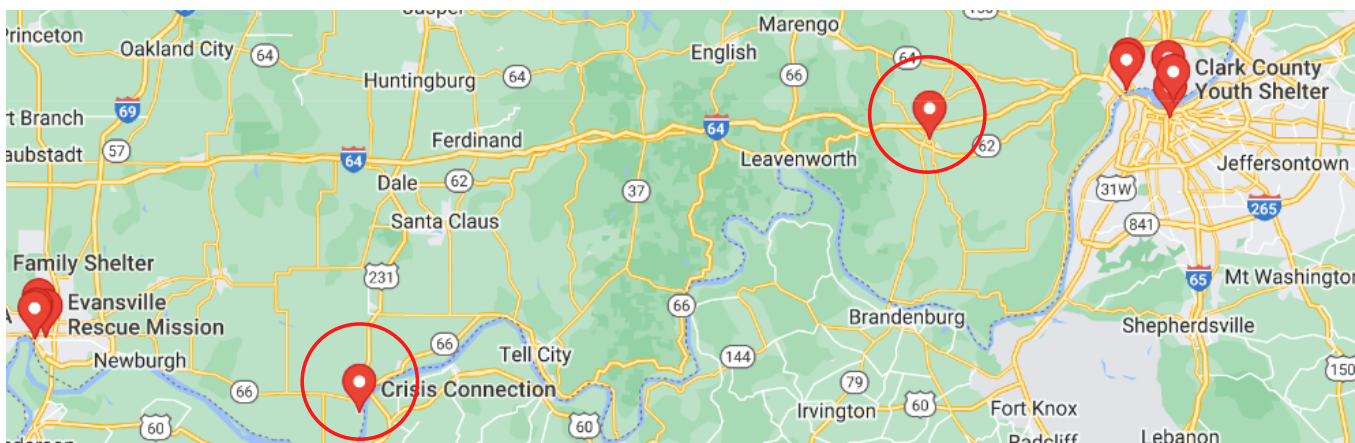
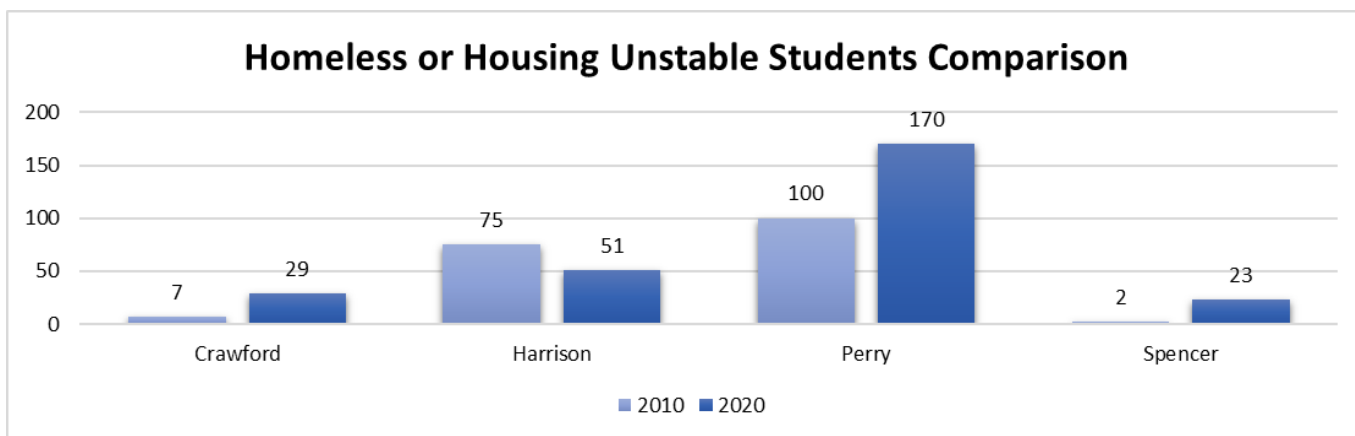
Crawford \$14.08
 Harrison \$17.65
 Perry \$14.08
 Spencer \$14.08

Hours Needed Per Week at Minimum Wage (\$7.25) to Afford a 2-Bedroom Fair Market Rental:

Crawford 78
 Harrison 97
 Perry 78
 Spencer 78



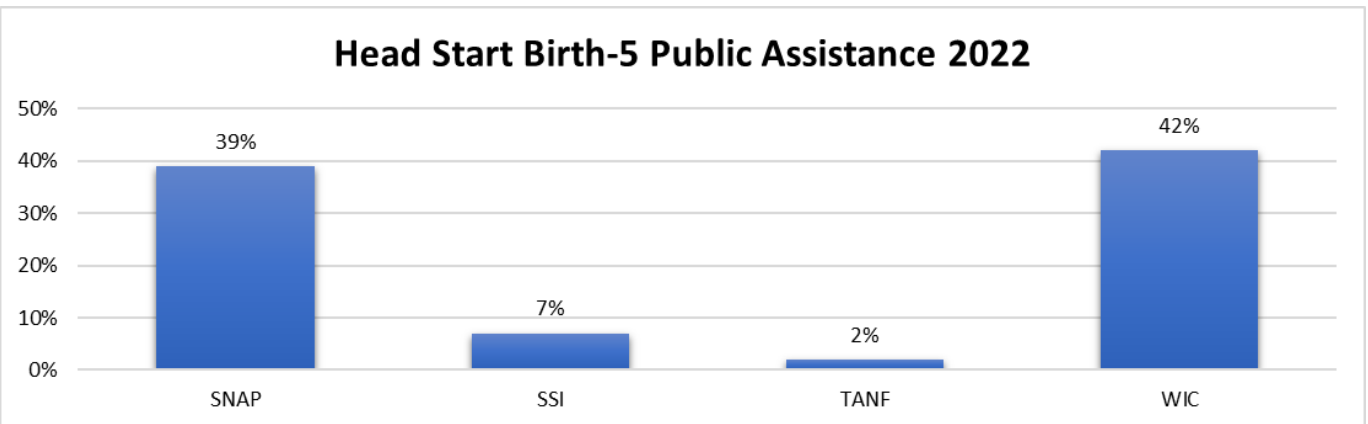
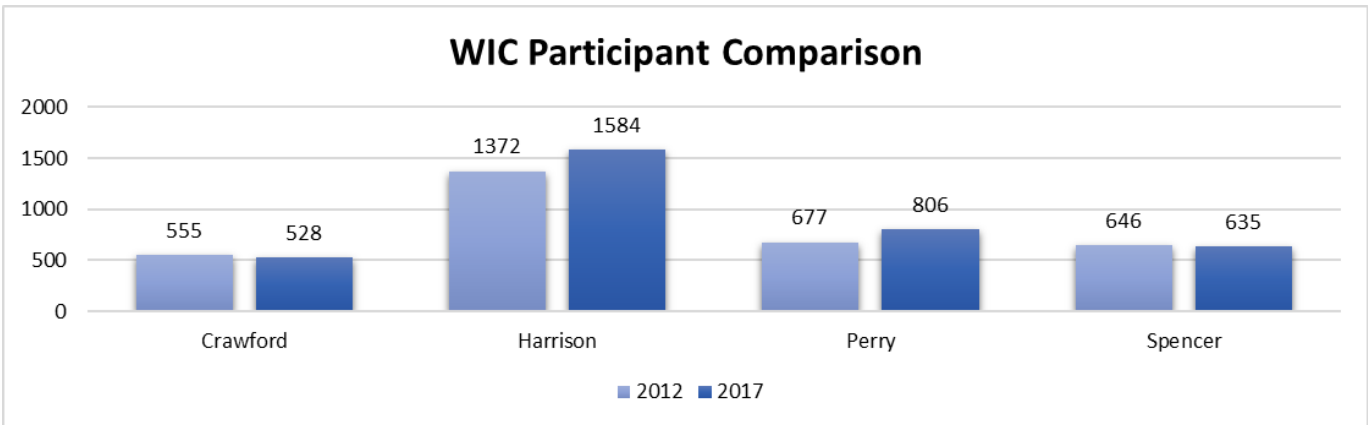
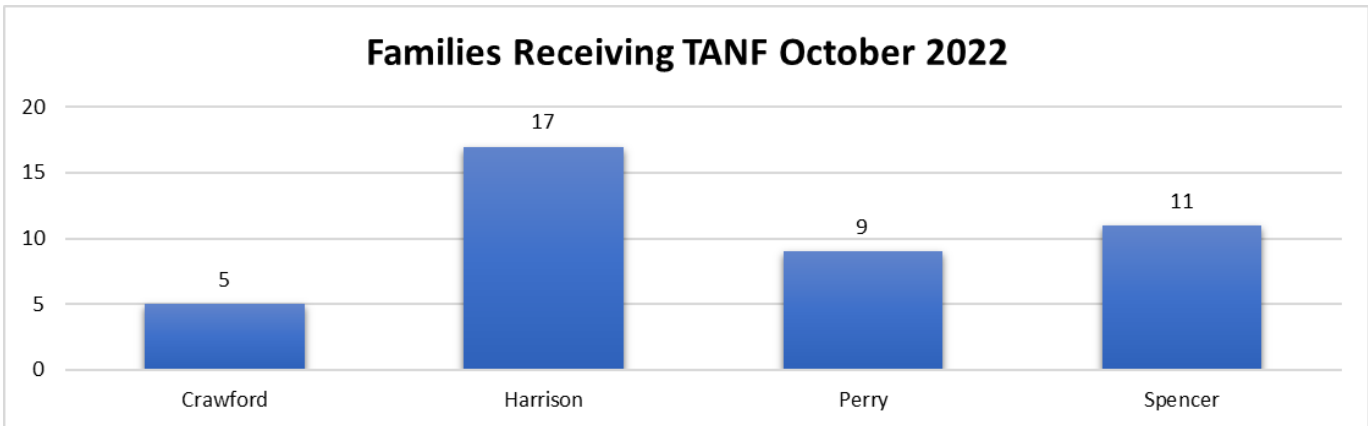
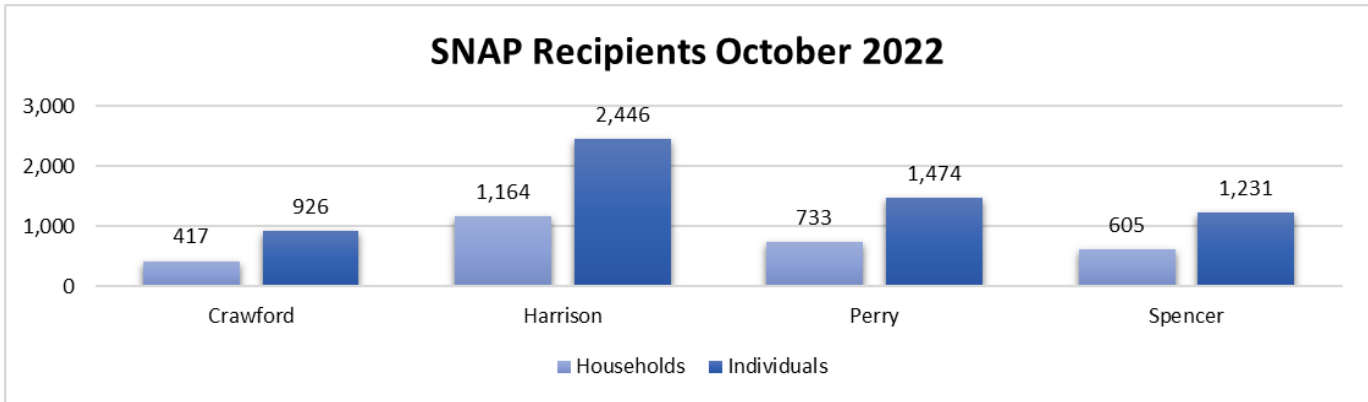
Homeless or Housing Unstable Students Comparison



1 Homeless shelter and 1 Domestic Violence Safehouse in HSB5 service area.

*Prosperity Indiana
 *KidsCount Data Center
 *Google Maps

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

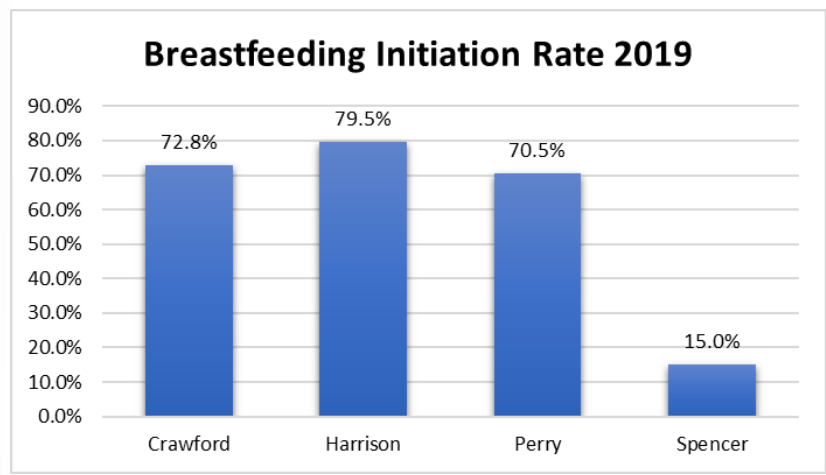
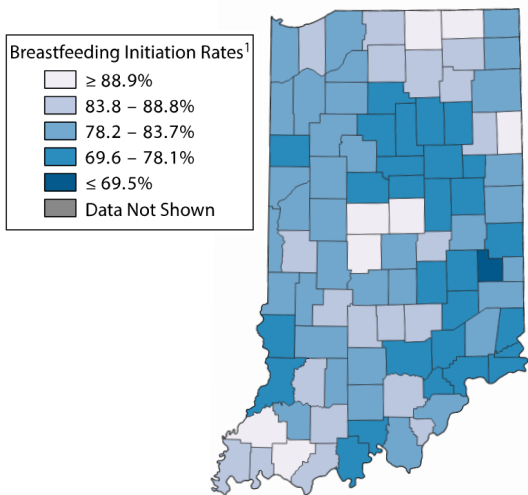
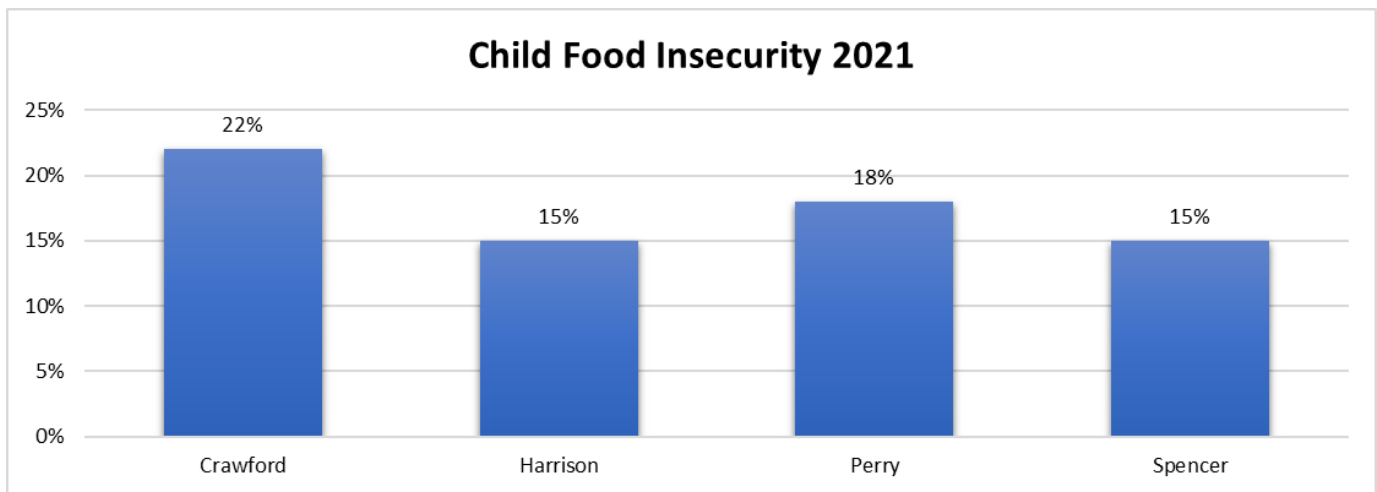
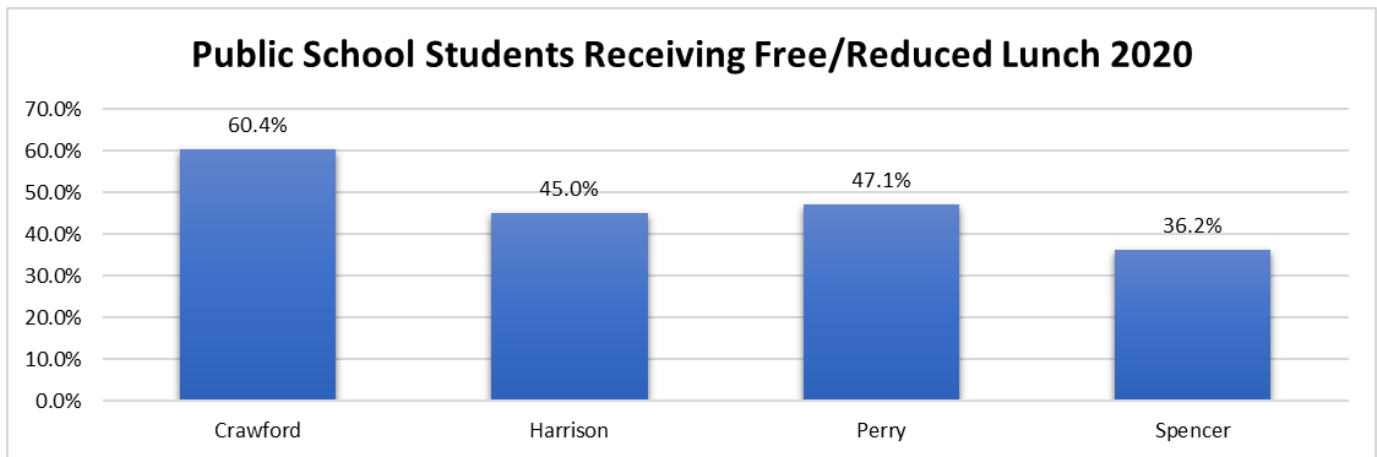


*Indiana FSSA

*Kids Count in Indiana

*2022 LHDC Head Start Birth-5 Data

NUTRITION

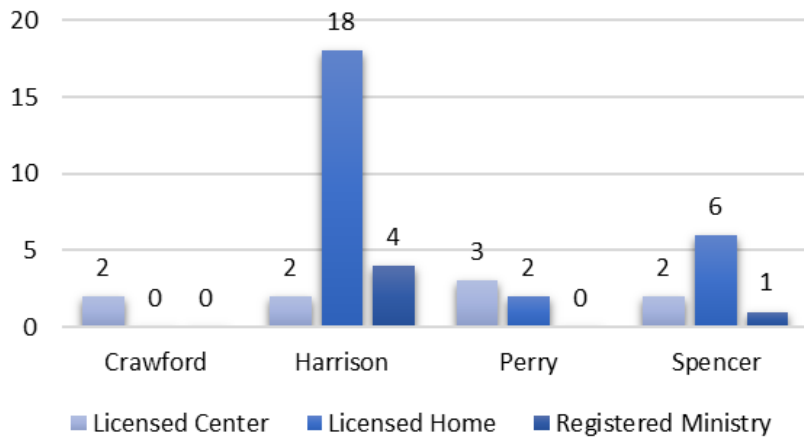


*Kids Count in Indiana

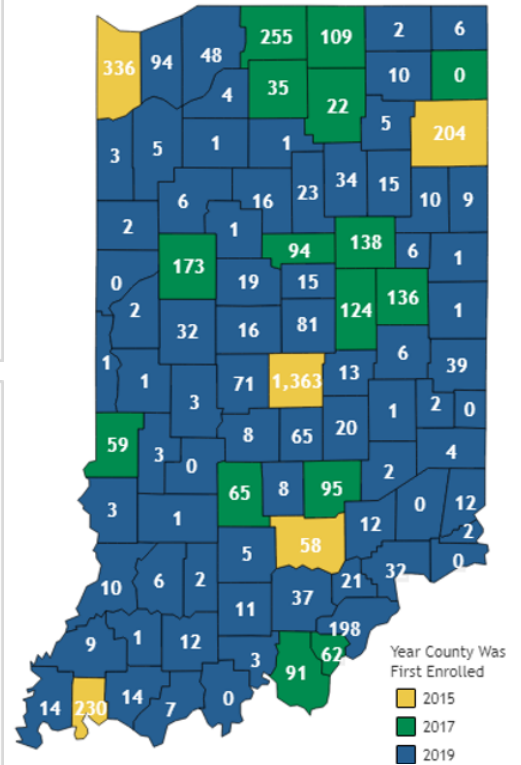
*Centers for Disease Control

CHILD CARE AND PUBLIC PRE-K

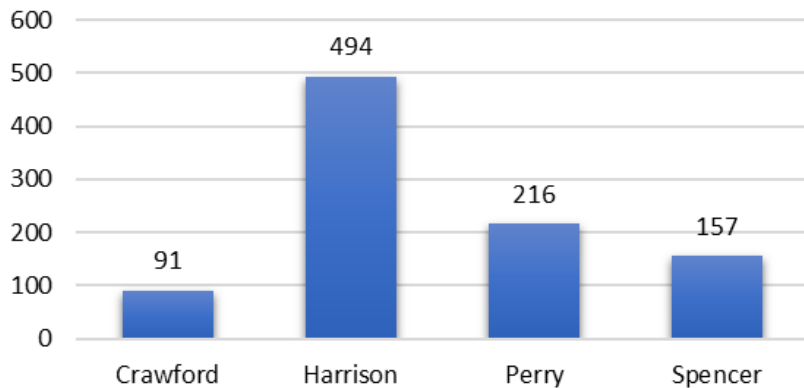
Child Care Facilities 2020



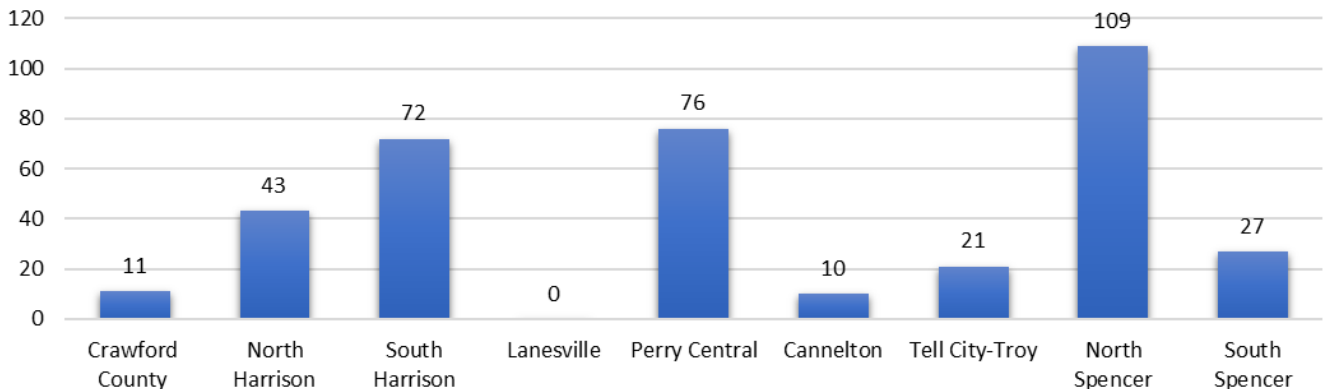
On My Way Pre-K Enrollments



Licensed Child Care Capacity 2017



Pre K Enrollment in School Corporations 2022

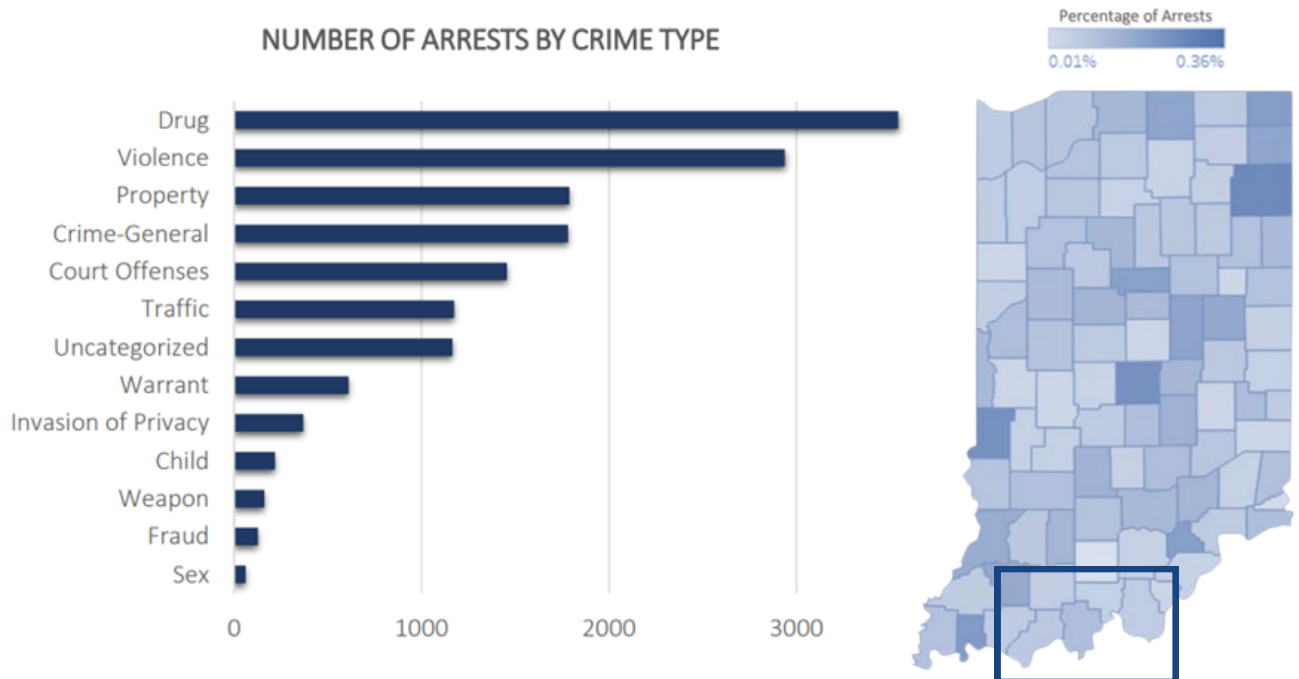
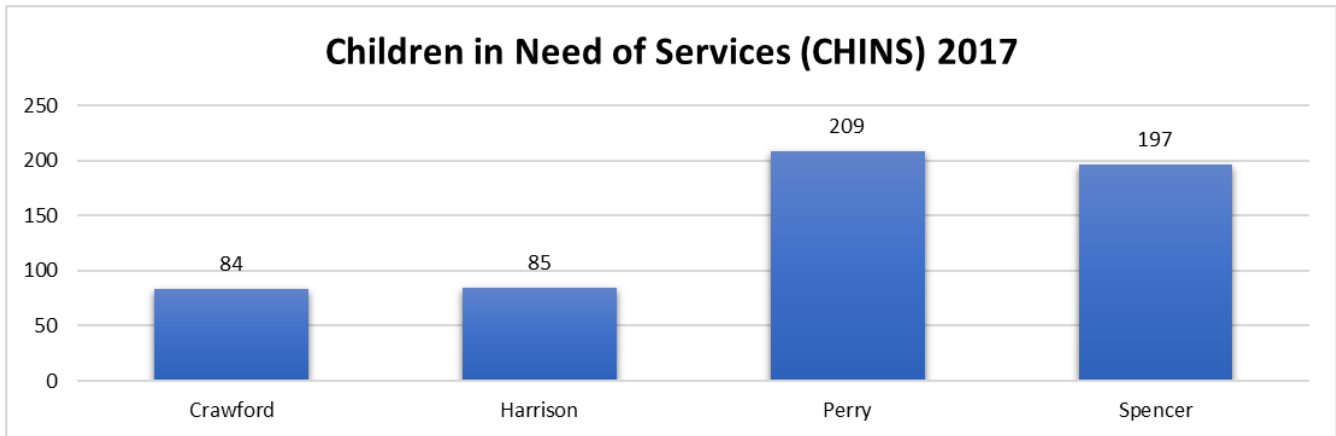
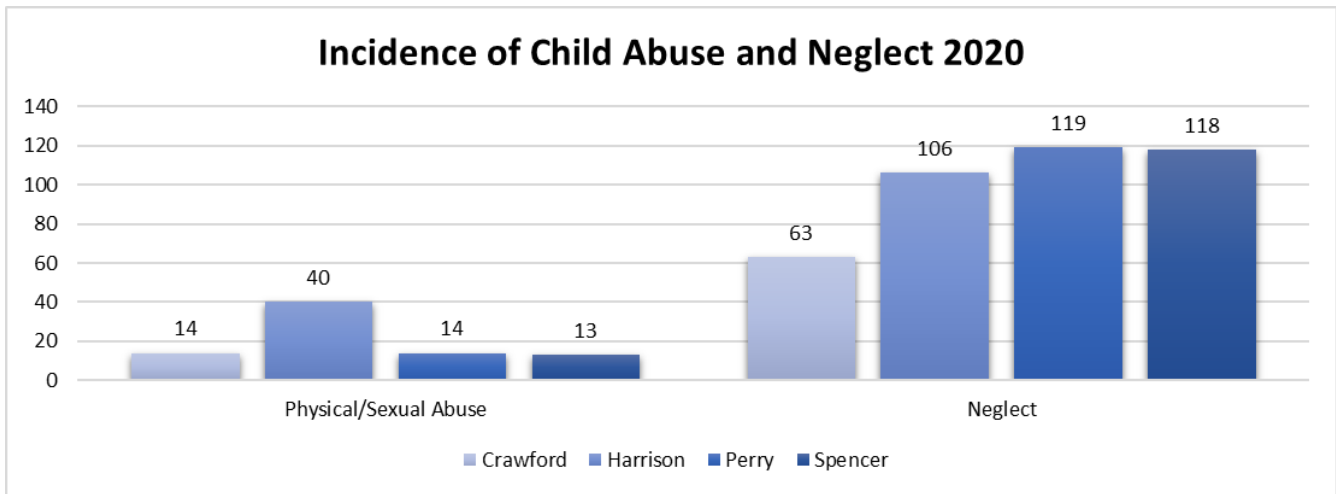


*FSSA

*KidsCount Data Center

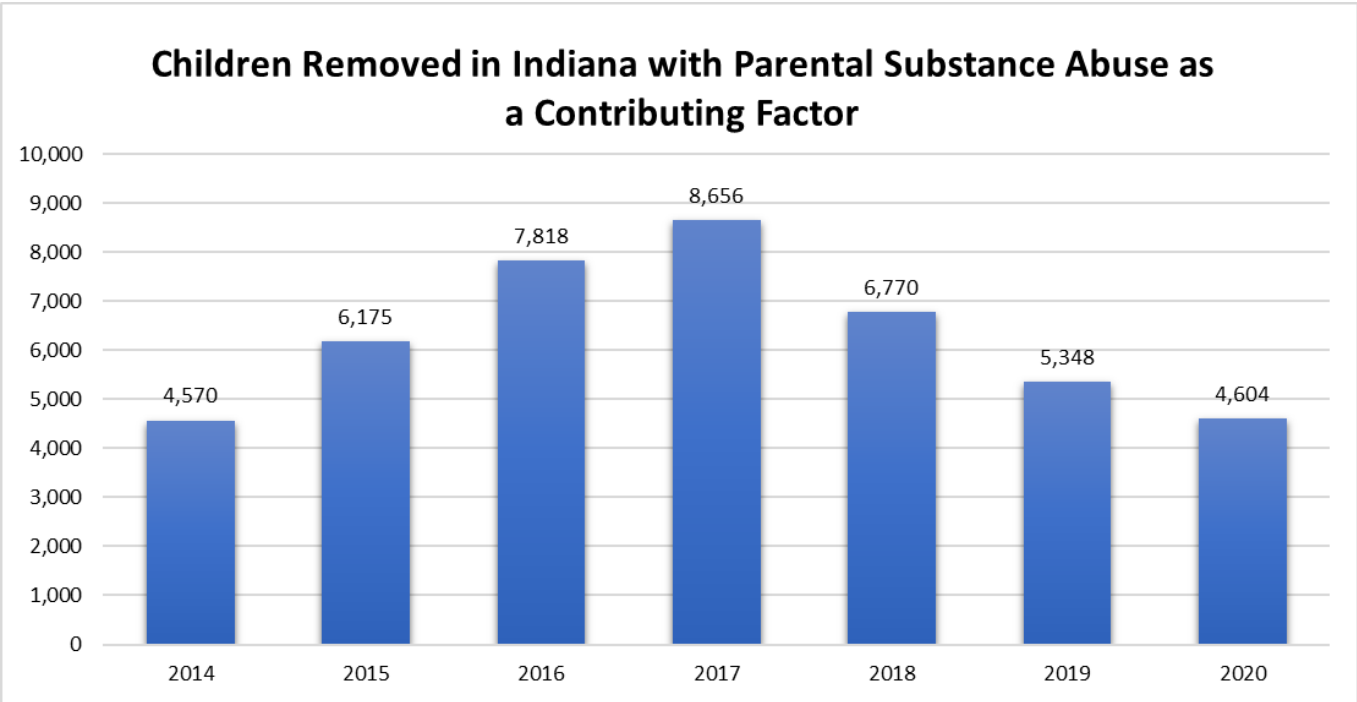
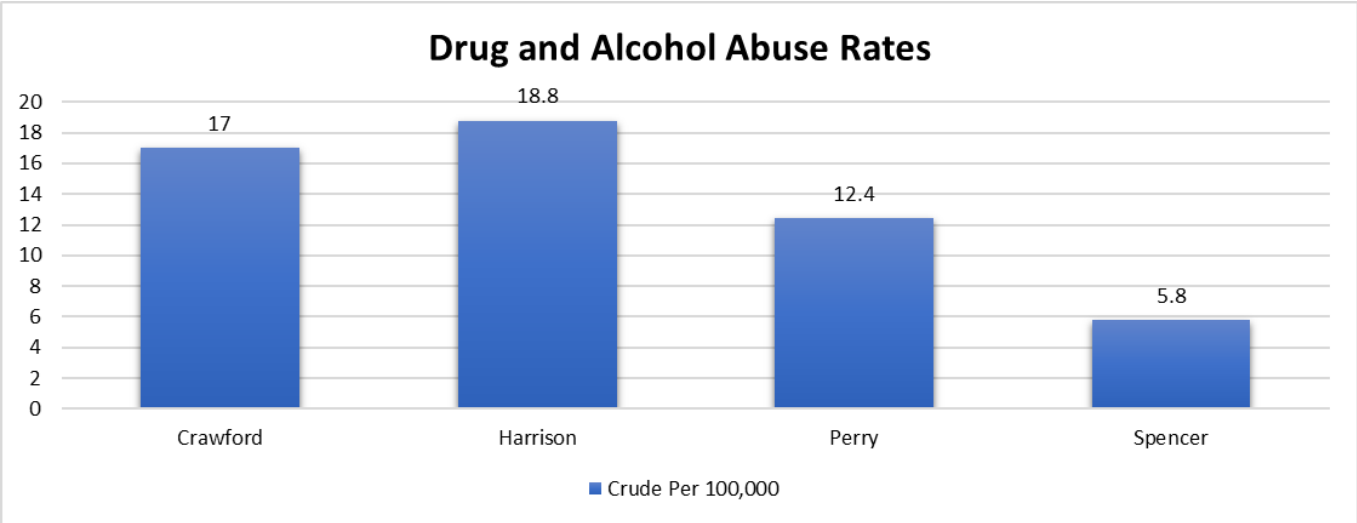
*Indiana Department of Education

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT



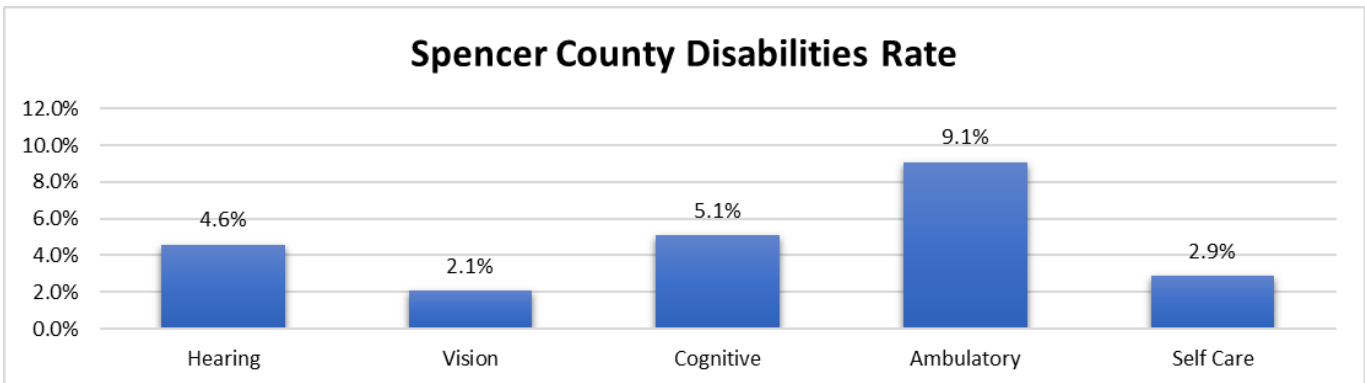
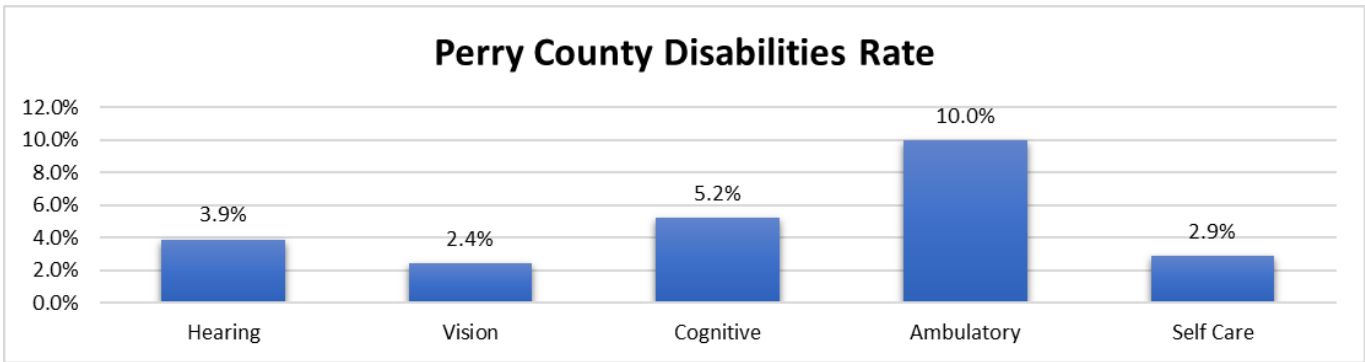
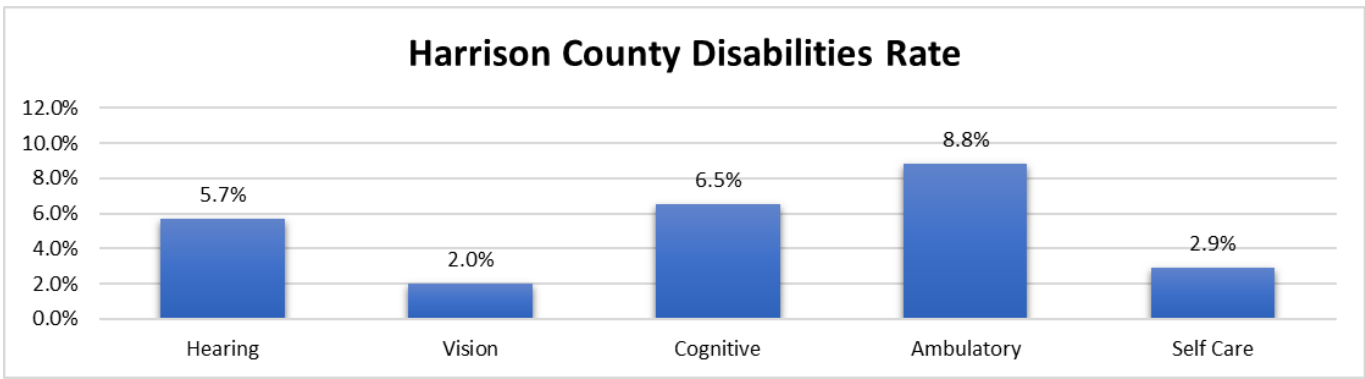
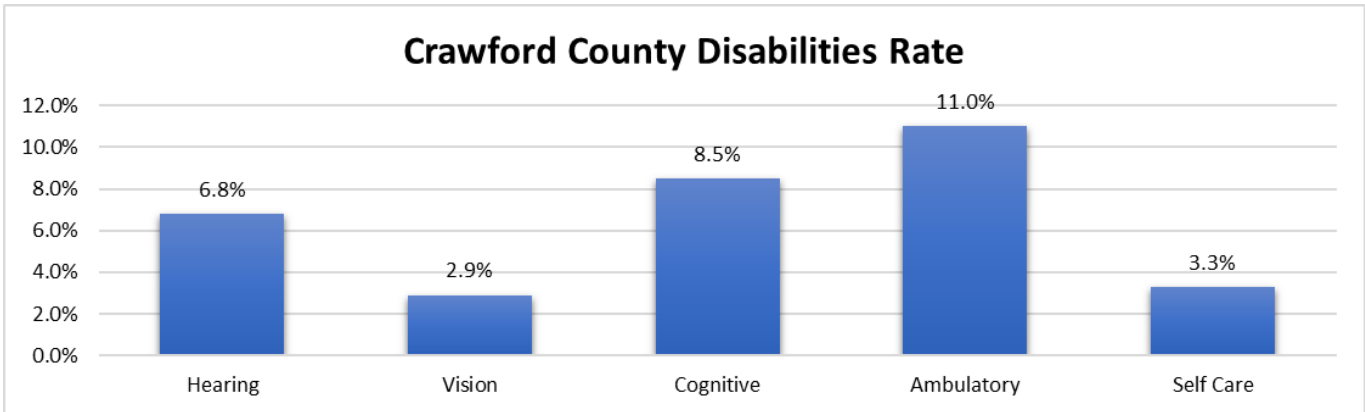
*Department of Child Services
 *Indiana Criminal Justice Institute

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

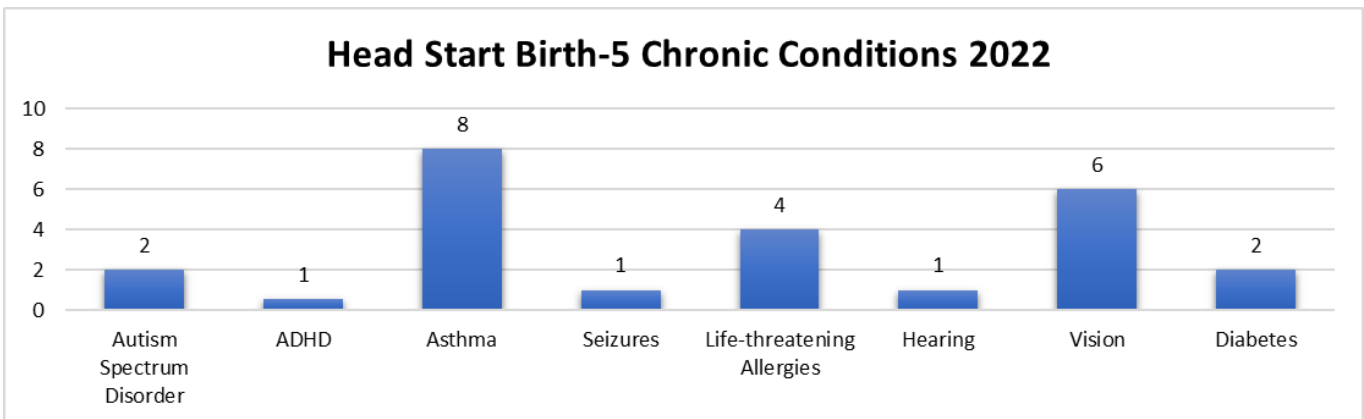
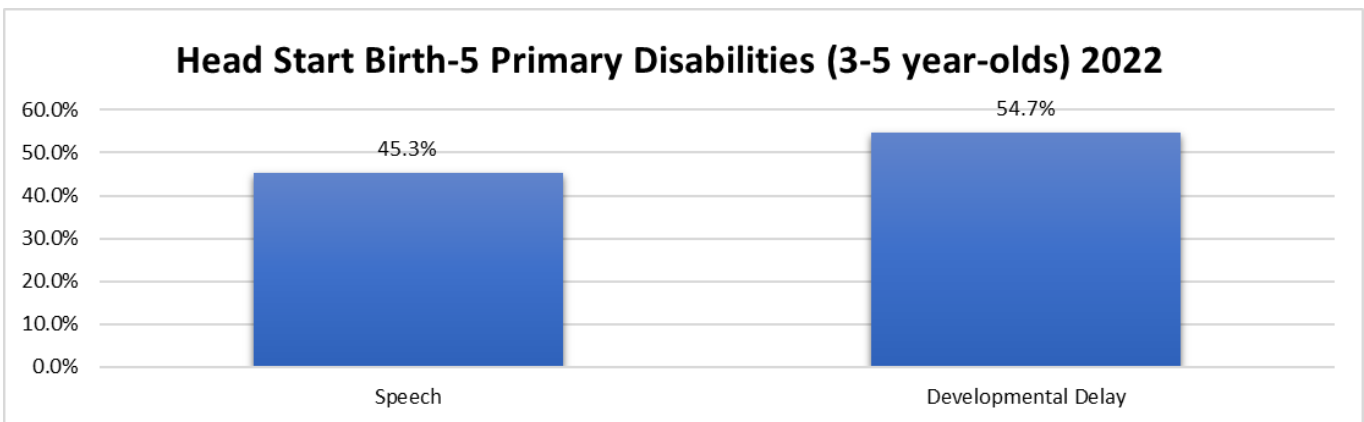
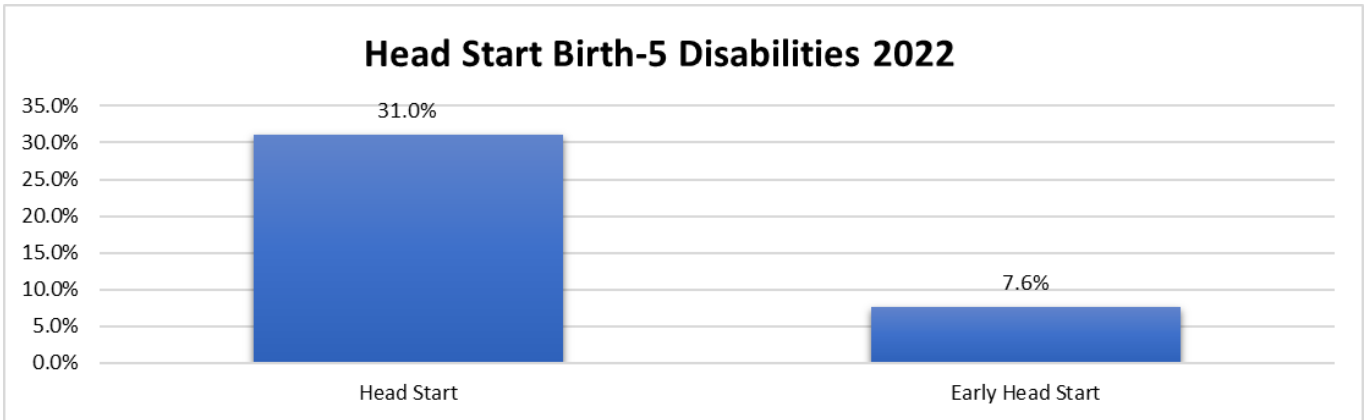


*Indiana.gov

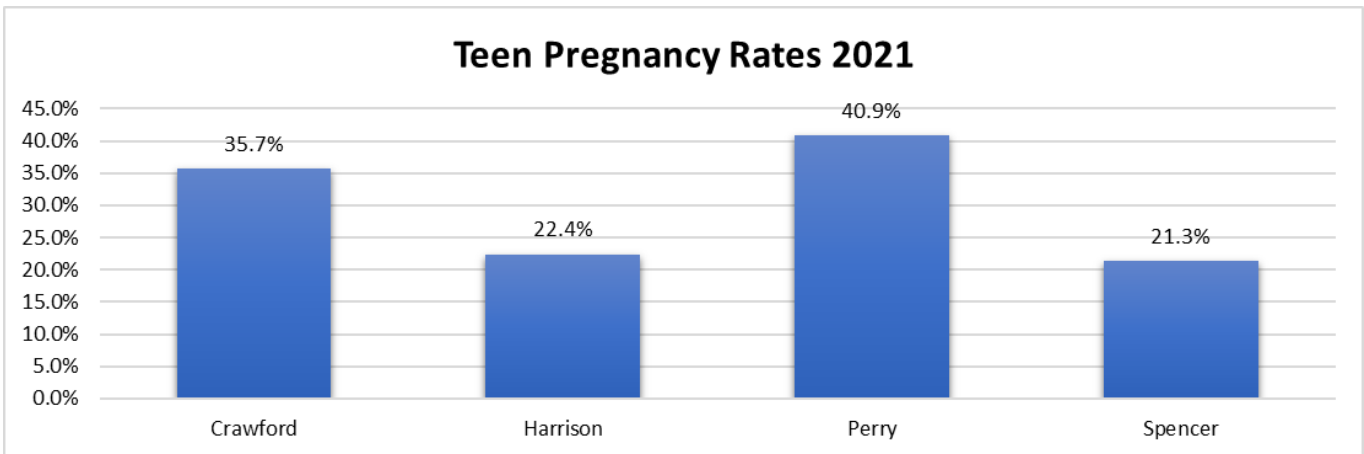
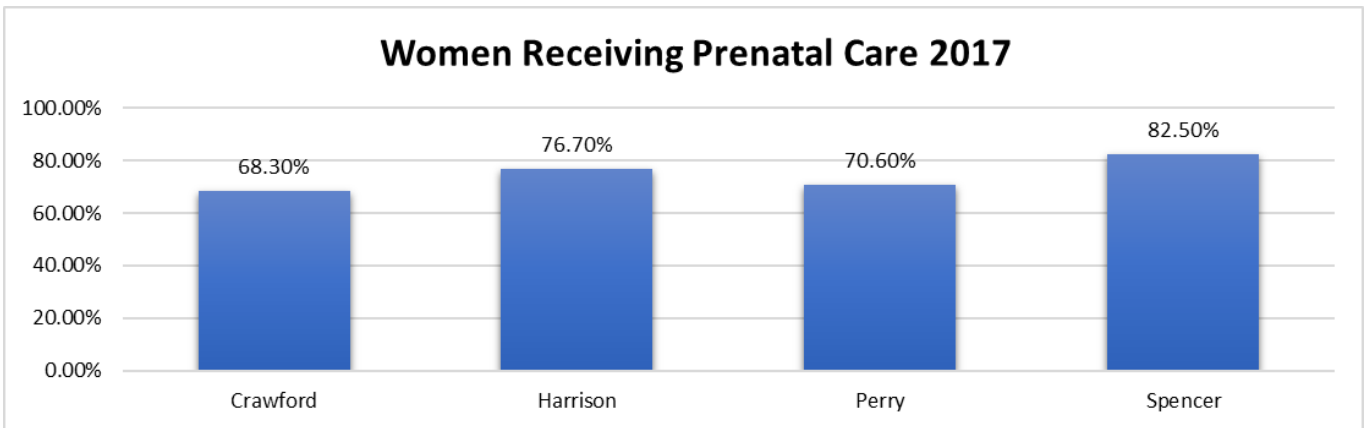
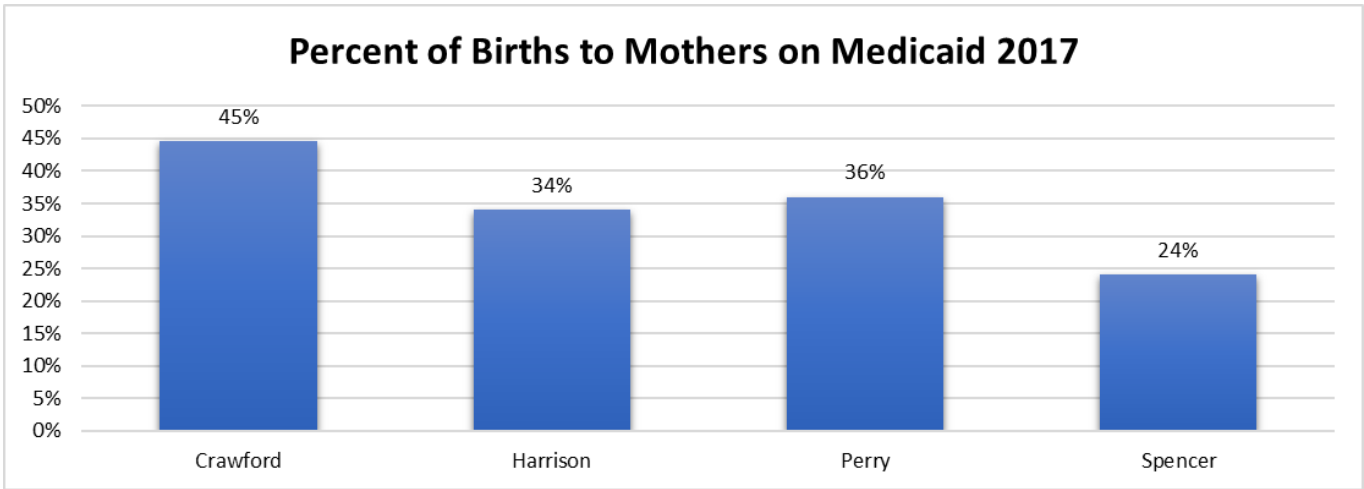
DISABILITIES (ALL AGES)



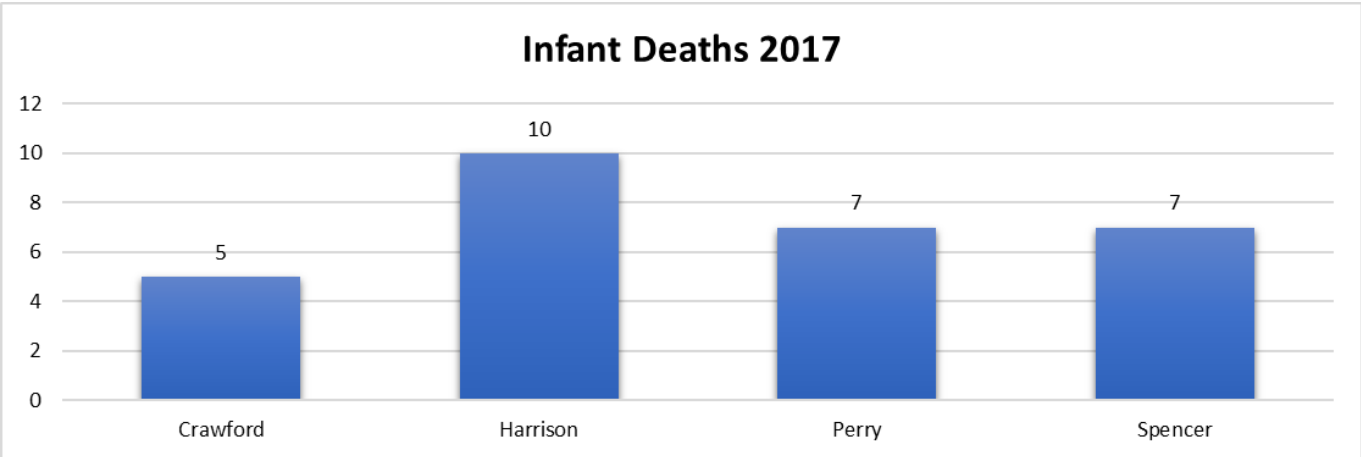
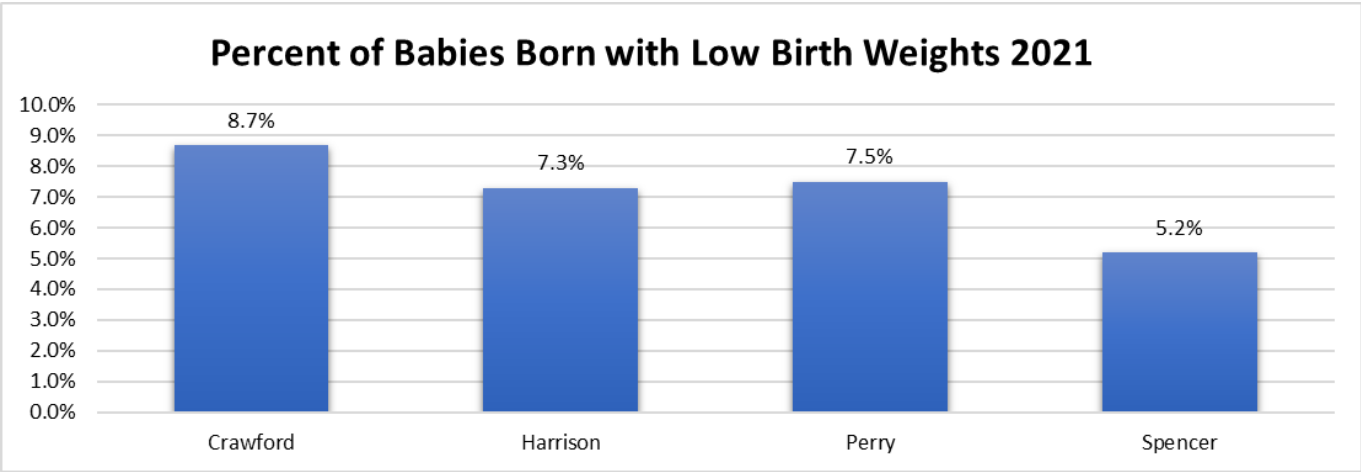
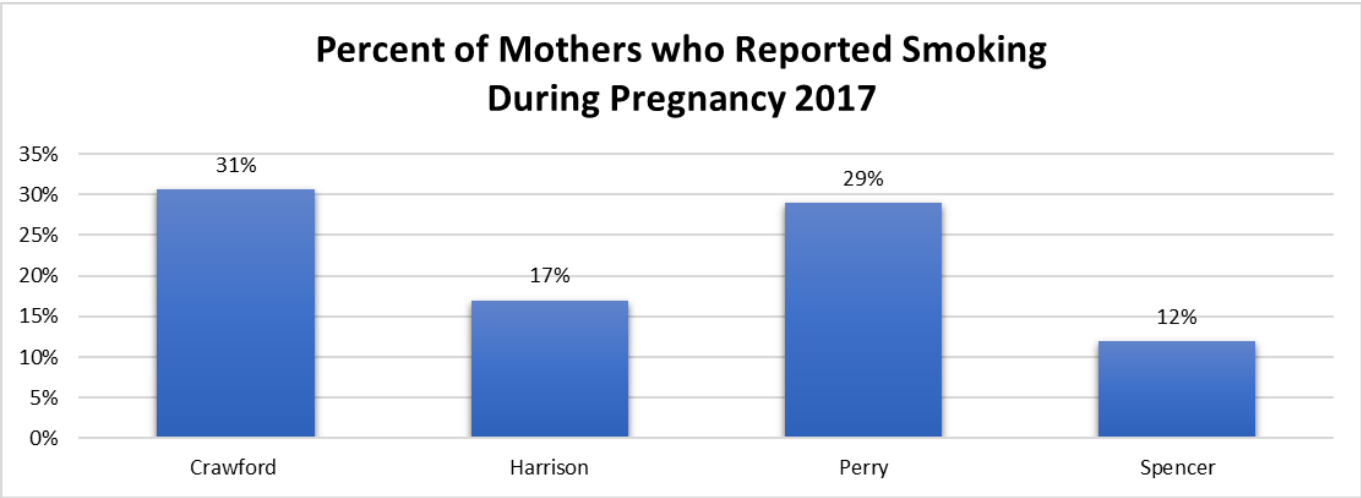
DISABILITIES (CONTINUED)



PREGNANCY AND BIRTH



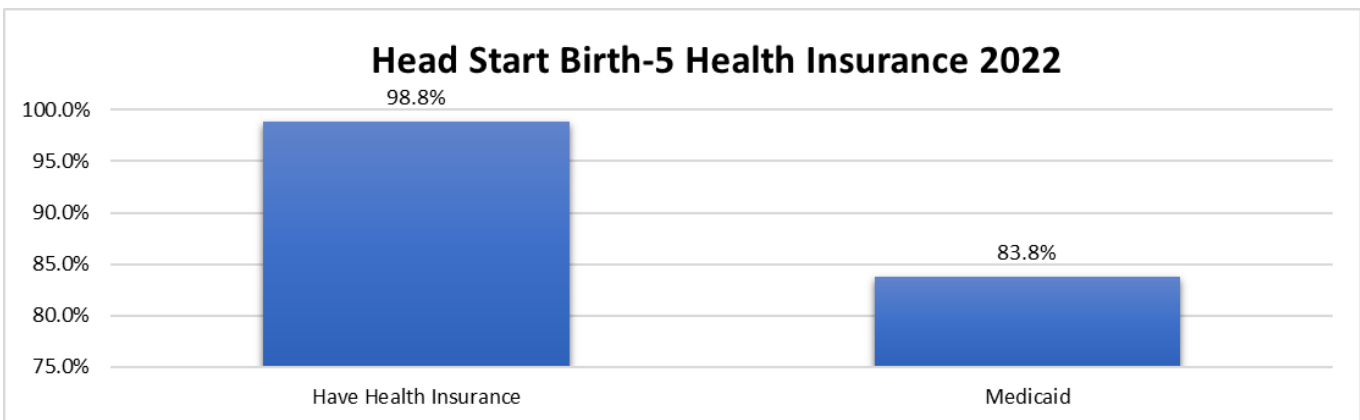
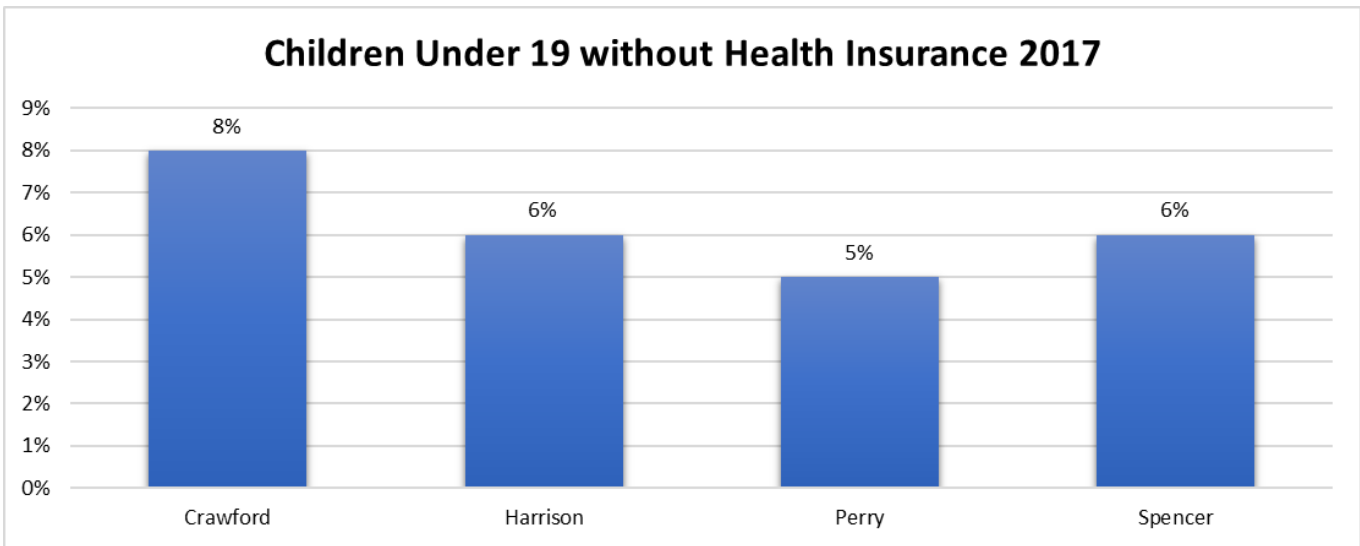
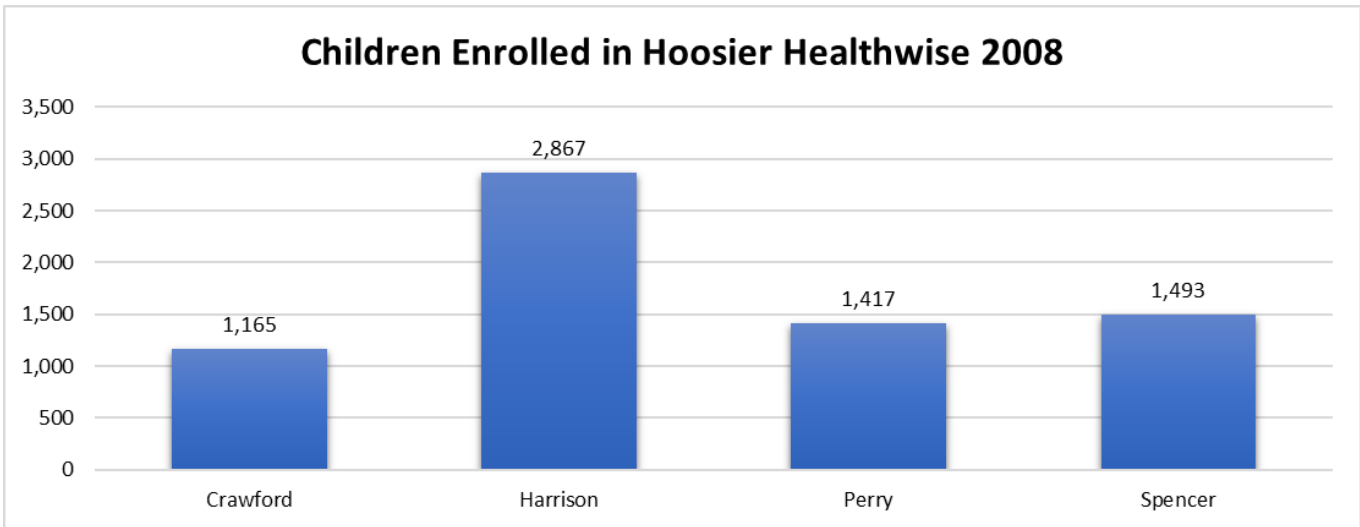
PREGNANCY AND BIRTH (CONTINUED)



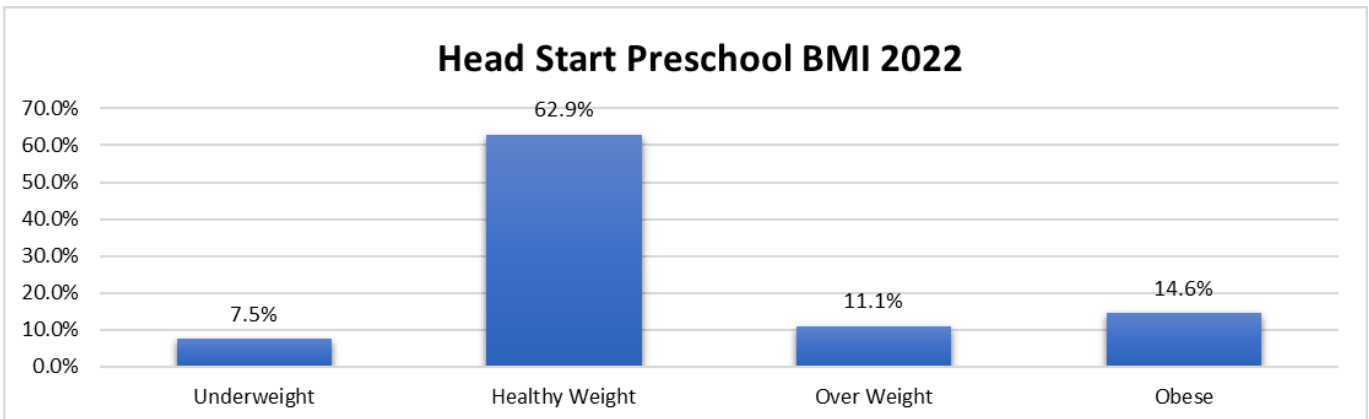
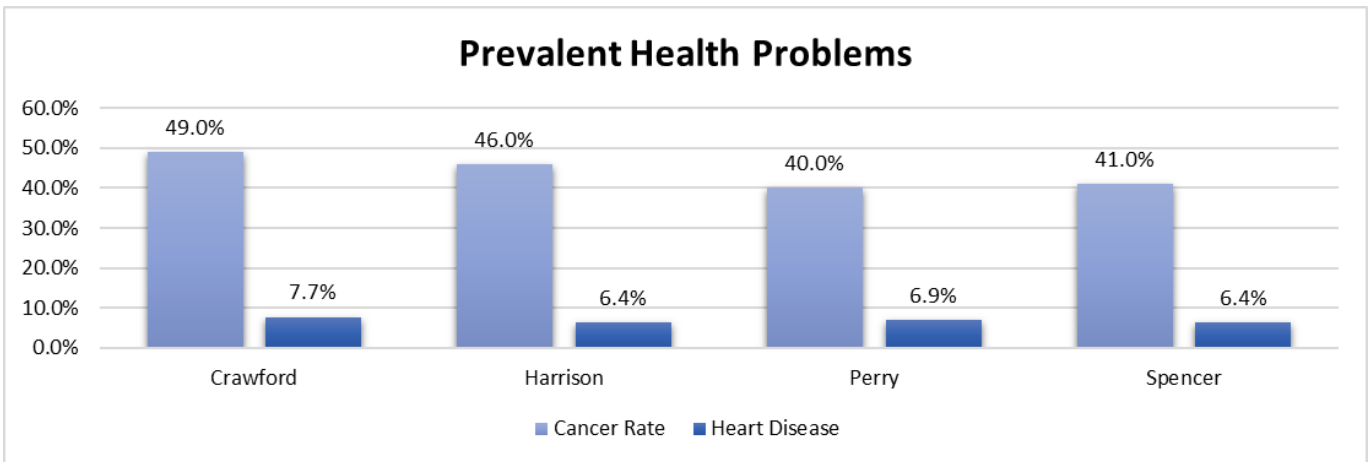
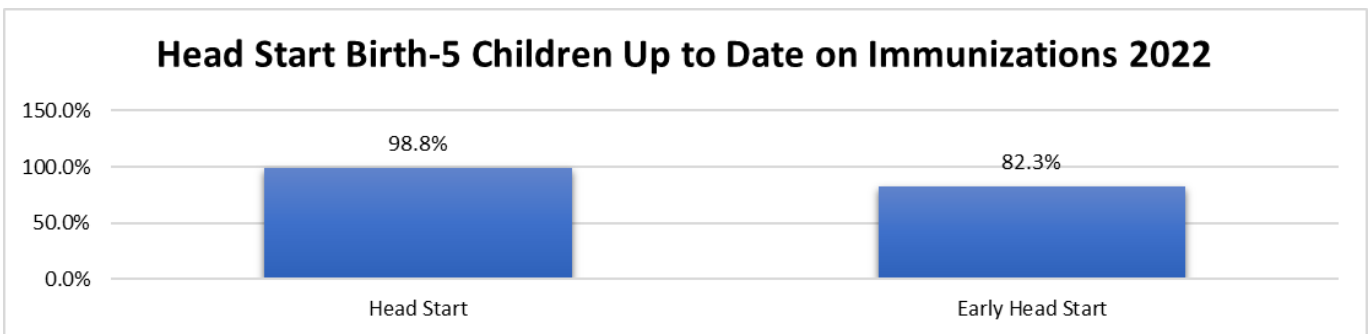
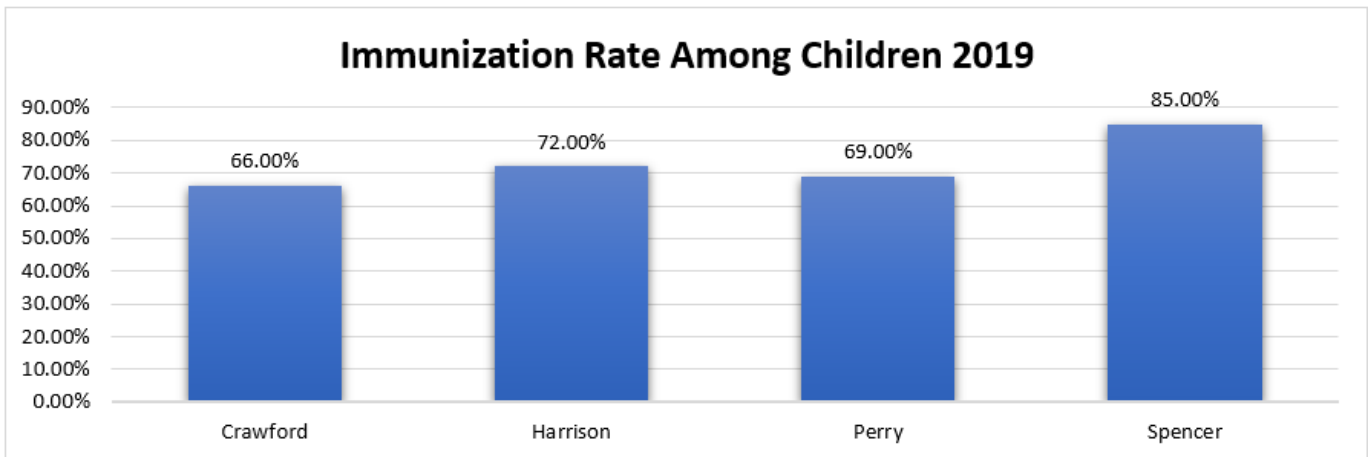
*Purdue University

*US News

HEALTH INSURANCE



HEALTH



LHDC SURVEY DATA

SURVEY VALIDITY

From September to December of 2020, researchers sent surveys via text and email to financially vulnerable households in LHDC's service area. LHDC's household survey had 492 unique survey attempts, with 259 completions, providing a 95% confidence level and a 5.86 confidence interval. Survey respondents were more likely to be female compared with LHDC's total client population.

COUNTIES REPRESENTED	Crawford	Perry	Spencer	Other
Survey	70	119	62	8

WELL-BEING	U.S. Population (2019)	Lincoln Hills
Living Comfortably	36%	6%
Doing OK	39%	20%
Just Getting By	18%	42%
Finding it Difficult to Get By	6%	32%

108 respondents (42%) reported that they could not pay all of their bills in the month of the survey.

ASSISTANCE	Yes	On Waiting List or Want/Need This Kind of Assistance
SNAP	44%	12%
Housing Assistance	22%	8%
TANF	2%	6%
Child Care Assistance	1%	2%
Stimulus	84%	7%
Unemployment	9%	5%

WELL-BEING ASSESSMENTS	% of Assessments Completed
<i>Total assessments completed in LHDC's service area: 2,262</i>	
Not enough money for food in the last 12 months	48%
Utilities shut off in last 12 months	38%
Fear of not having stable housing in next 2 months	20%
Problems getting child care	10%
Cost prevented seeing doctor in the last 12 months	19%
Transportation prevented seeing doctor in the last 12 months	27%
Need help reading hospital materials	28%
Fear of being hurt at home	12%
Actively seeking work in last 4 weeks	29%
Not engaged in regular exercise	49%

LHDC SURVEY DATA CONTINUED

81% of respondents in the sample reported that they did not have emergency savings. Of the 9% who reported that they did have emergency savings, the median amount saved was \$1000.

ACCOUNTS FOR SAVING AND SPENDING	Survey Results
Checking Account	87%
Savings Account	22%
Credit Card	29%
Retirement Savings	13%

DEBT SOURCES & AMOUNTS	\$0	< \$500	\$500 - \$1,000	\$1K to \$10K	> \$10K
Medical	33%	14%	8%	19%	9%
Student	75%	0%	1%	8%	7%
Car	70%	1%	2%	9%	10%
Credit Card	54%	6%	9%	19%	3%
Personal	78%	2%	3%	6%	2%
Payday	88%	2%	1%	2%	0%

45% of respondents reported that they are BEHIND on paying back debt. Falling behind on debt can lead to damaged credit and added fees. Prior to the pandemic, nearly one in three Hoosiers with a credit file had a debt in collections.

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS	Survey
Currently without housing	0%
Live with family or friends (not an owner or listed on the rental contract)	4%
Other (please specify)	5%
Own a home free and clear (without a mortgage or loan)	15%
Own a home with a mortgage or loan	24%
Own a mobile home with or without a mortgage, and pay lot rent	3%
Own a mobile home with or without a mortgage, on land that I own	5%
Rent a home, apartment or other housing	43%

LHDC SURVEY DATA CONTINUED

CHILD CARE NEEDS	Percent of Survey Respondents
First Shift	44%
Second Shift	22%
Third Shift	11%
Weekends	19%
Before School	7%
After School	44%
Highly Irregular Hours	15%
Other	11%

27%
of the kids under 5 years old in LHDC's service area lived in poverty in 2019.

Ten percent of respondents reported that they had a child in need of care. Of those needing child care, most needed first-shift, with after-school care second. Of families who needed or used child care, top concerns were:

- I cannot find care that is affordable (33%)
- I worry that my current care arrangements aren't meeting my child's developmental/learning needs (22%)
- I cannot find care that matches my work schedule (22%)

Spotlight on a Community Need

More child care options in the two census tracts that are child care deserts would really help the families in this area improve their ability to work and be financially stable. Perry and Spencer counties each had one child care desert.

FOOD INSECURITY

A significant number of respondents reported that they couldn't get enough food to eat – or not the kinds of foods they wanted - in the week of the survey:

- 36% of respondents said they "couldn't afford to buy more food."
- 8% said they "couldn't get out to buy food (e.g., because of transportation or health issues)."
- 6% said they were afraid to go out.
- 2% said they couldn't get groceries or meals delivered.
- 10% said stores near them didn't have the foods they wanted.

LHDC SURVEY DATA CONTINUED

CONNECTIVITY

Cell Phones

- 73% of respondents have a cell phone with unlimited minutes/data, versus 25% with limitations.

Land Lines

- 13% of respondents reported having a landline.

Computer/Laptop

- 33% of respondents have a computer or laptop.

Internet

- 29% of respondents report having fast, reliable internet, versus 18% with slow/unreliable internet

According to the 2018 American Community Survey, 12% of the residents across the service area had a computer but did not have internet at all, 22% had a computer but ONLY had a cellular data plan for their internet. Only 13% did not have a computer. This is a much lower rate than what was reported by our survey

SERVICES RESPONDENTS USED	Number of Survey Respondents
Housing	55
Head Start or Early Head Start	58
Healthy Families	18
Energy Assistance	164
Weatherization	55
Emergency assistance	19
Other	34

ASSESSMENTS OF STAFF	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
The way staff treated you	1%	5%	39%	54%
The reliability of the program staff in doing what they said they would do	2%	9%	40%	48%
The timeliness of program staff in responding to your questions or needs	3%	8%	43%	45%
The knowledge or ability of program staff	3%	8%	43%	45%