



Heart of Illinois
United Way



2020 HEART OF ILLINOIS UNITED WAY

COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT



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2020 HEART OF ILLINOIS UNITED WAY COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Why do an assessment of the education, financial stability and health needs in central Illinois? Because data helps all of us make better decisions.

At the Heart of Illinois United Way, our goal is to help our community thrive by using our hearts and data to invest in programs that deliver the strongest return on investment. This assessment gives us direction on where needs are the greatest. We can then align these needs with the vital programs provided by our incredible partner agencies, who help our citizens improve their knowledge and behaviors, resulting in changed lives and measurable outcomes.

Our volunteers are specially trained to determine how to invest the community's donations while considering the data and the intangibles important to achieving positive results. We invite you to consider investing in this process by donating to our Community Impact Fund to help ensure that critical health and human care needs are met throughout our region.

While the data in this assessment were gathered before the economic impact of COVID-19, our United Way continually leverages community-wide collaborations and donations to build a stable foundation of education, financial stability and health services that remain strong in times of crisis and adapt to meet the greatest needs over time. From data collected by our Heart of Illinois 2-1-1 information and referral service during the early days of the COVID-19 response, we know that requests related to food, shelter, personal hygiene, domestic violence and other needs increased more than 250% at times. As in any time of crisis, our region's strong health and human care network worked together to address immediate needs while looking ahead to long-term needs in our community.

Within each edition of the assessment, we highlight a specific issue that can be addressed within central Illinois. In 2020, we are focusing on workforce readiness. The best thing we can do to achieve equity for all and ensure that people's basic needs are met is to provide the education they need to earn a sustainable living wage through jobs that support a strong community and economy. The work being done locally to support workforce readiness is measurable, goal-driven and includes people from all sectors—because no one has the time, energy or funds to do any of this work alone, or without results.

The Heart of Illinois United Way looks forward to collaborating and partnering across sectors to make our region the best it can be.



Jennifer Zammuto, President
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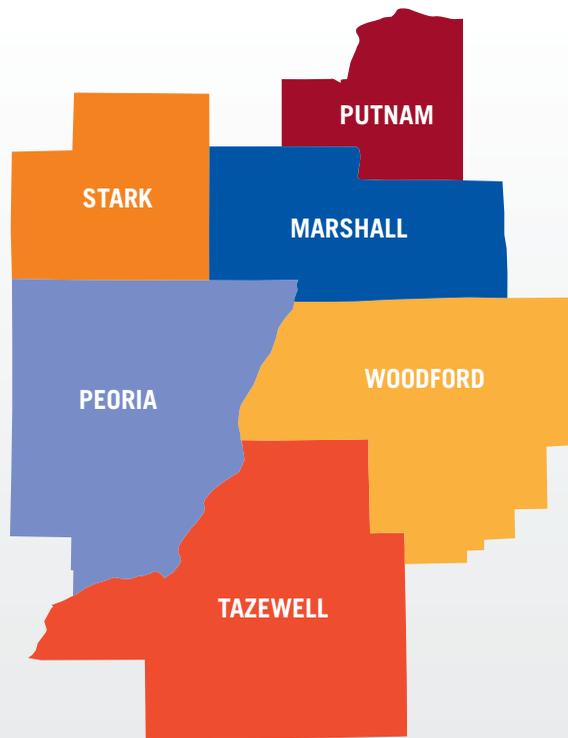
ABOUT THE HEART OF ILLINOIS UNITED WAY COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Through the 2020 Heart of Illinois United Way Community Assessment, our United Way examines the most critical community needs and then collaborates with a wide variety of community partners to support the education, financial stability and health of all people in central Illinois.

ADDRESSING COMMUNITY NEEDS

The primary focus of the Community Assessment is to improve the Heart of Illinois United Way's effectiveness in identifying, assessing and supporting key areas of social concern.

- In 2020, the Heart of Illinois United Way will utilize the findings in this assessment to transition our Community Impact Fund process to focus on education, financial stability and health.
- By realigning program indicators and outcomes, restructuring allocation panels, and directing Community Impact Fund grants towards education, financial stability and health, the Heart of Illinois United Way will use a data-driven process to prioritize and address community needs.
- Since 2005, our Community Assessment has assessed issues and trends impacting the communities served by the Heart of Illinois United Way using secondary data.
- Included in the 2020 Community Assessment is a special research section on how health and human care services are vital to developing workforce readiness throughout the region.



GEOGRAPHIC AREAS COVERED IN THE ASSESSMENT

- **Peoria Tri-County Area** encompasses Peoria, Tazewell and Woodford counties.
- **Peoria Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA)** encompasses Peoria, Tazewell, Woodford, Marshall and Stark counties.
- **Peoria Six-County Region** includes the population of the Peoria MSA plus Putnam County.

WHY EDUCATION, FINANCIAL STABILITY, AND HEALTH?

Education, financial stability and health are vital for building safe and stable lives. The Heart of Illinois United Way is committed to ensuring these fundamentals are available for all individuals in our community.



Quality education is essential to earning a livable wage.



Improving financial stability leads to increased independence.



Access to healthcare promotes wellness for all ages.



Founded in 1921, the Heart of Illinois United Way brings together individuals from business, labor, government, health and human services to address our community's needs. Money raised through the Heart of Illinois United Way's Community Impact Fund stays in our community, funding programs and services in Marshall, Peoria, Putnam, Stark, Tazewell and Woodford counties.

OUR MISSION:

To increase the organized capacity of the people in central Illinois to care for one another.

OUR VISION:

To create a strong, safe and healthy community while providing the best return for the community's charitable investment.

MAKING AN IMPACT

ABOUT THE HEART OF ILLINOIS UNITED WAY COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND



The Heart of Illinois United Way invests in programs and initiatives addressing identified critical needs of people in central Illinois. Through evaluation and collaboration, we ensure charitable investments in our Community Impact Fund make a positive impact on the community we all call home.

- One out of three people in central Illinois is helped by Community Impact Fund programs and initiatives each year.
- Funding decisions are made by local, experienced volunteers with years of grant review expertise. Our data-driven process is based on a set of measurable outcomes, using the data from this assessment, that benchmark how well each funded program impacts the clients served and if the program is financially viable.
- By funding establish outcomes—which are specific changes in knowledge, attitudes, skills, behaviors or conditions—the Heart of Illinois United Way ensures donations to the Community Impact Fund are invested in sustainable programs and initiatives.
- Through our multi-year, competitive grant process, the Heart of Illinois United Way Community Impact Fund is a reliable source of funding to our partner agencies while providing accountability to donors ensuring charitable investments earn the greatest return.

EDUCATION

Given a supportive environment, all children have the potential to succeed and make a positive contribution to society. Investing in young children provides greater long-term returns and is less costly than retraining them later in life.

EDUCATION TRENDS

- More than half of school districts in the Peoria Region report 30% or more students living in low-income households—which disproportionately affects student mobility, truancy, absenteeism and graduation rates.
- More than 40% of the region's school districts report their third and eighth grade students tested at or below the state average for English Language Arts and Math proficiency.
- While a higher percentage of the Peoria MSA population has a high school degree or equivalent compared to the state average, 13 of the 27 regional high schools reported a graduation rate at or below the state average of 86%.



EDUCATION

A quality education provides the skills and knowledge needed to achieve success in all stages of life. A community's investment in education contributes directly to lower poverty rates, higher levels of wellness, and a focus on lifelong learning—from preschool to college and beyond.

Unfortunately for many, factors outside of the classroom can inhibit learning even more than an understanding of the material. Addressing these factors is essential to ensure that all children and adults are ready to learn.

BASIC NEEDS

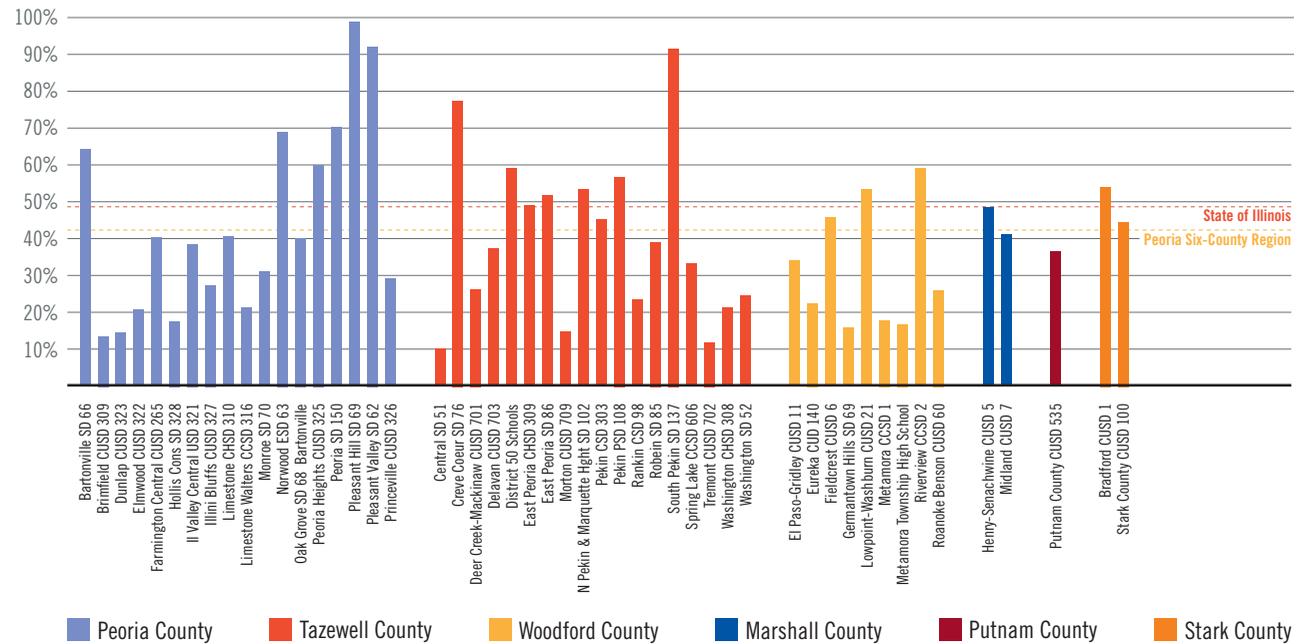
Low-income individuals may have household situations that impact their level of engagement. When a child is hungry and cannot concentrate, or when a single parent cannot find childcare so they can take a night class, the lack of resources to meet basic needs hinders their ability to learn.

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

Adverse Childhood Experiences take place across all socio-economic backgrounds and include emotional or physical abuse, neglect, and family/household challenges, such as observing domestic violence, a parent with mental illness, substance abuse, divorce or incarceration. As a community, we must be aware of the impact of trauma on learning, and work collaboratively to address these critical needs within the schools and through increased parental involvement.

PERCENTAGE OF LOW-INCOME STUDENTS

Peoria Six-County Region, 2018-2019



Illinois State Board of Education, 2018-2019 District Report Card Summary

Overall, 42.5% of students in the Peoria Six-County Region are considered low-income by the Illinois State Board of Education. They include students living in households that receive public aid from SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) or TANF (Targeted Assistance for Needy Families); those who are classified as homeless, migrant, runaway, Head Start participants or foster children; or who live in a home where the household income meets USDA guidelines to receive free or reduced-price meals.

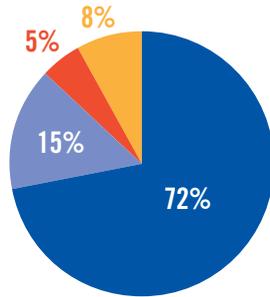
Thirty school districts in the Peoria Region have more than one third of students reported as low-income. This remains steady from the 2015-2016 school year, when the region experienced a 25% increase in the number of districts with one third or more of students reported low-income compared to 2013, and a 58% increase compared to 2010.

THIRTY OF 50 TOTAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN THE PEORIA REGION HAVE MORE THAN 1/3 OF STUDENTS REPORTED AS LOW-INCOME.

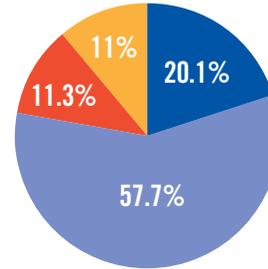
ENROLLMENT DIVERSITY

2018-2019 School Year

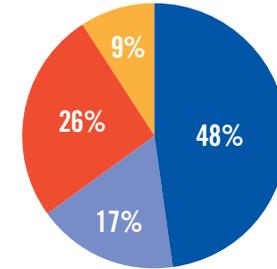
Black Hispanic
White Other



Peoria Six-County Region



Peoria SD 150

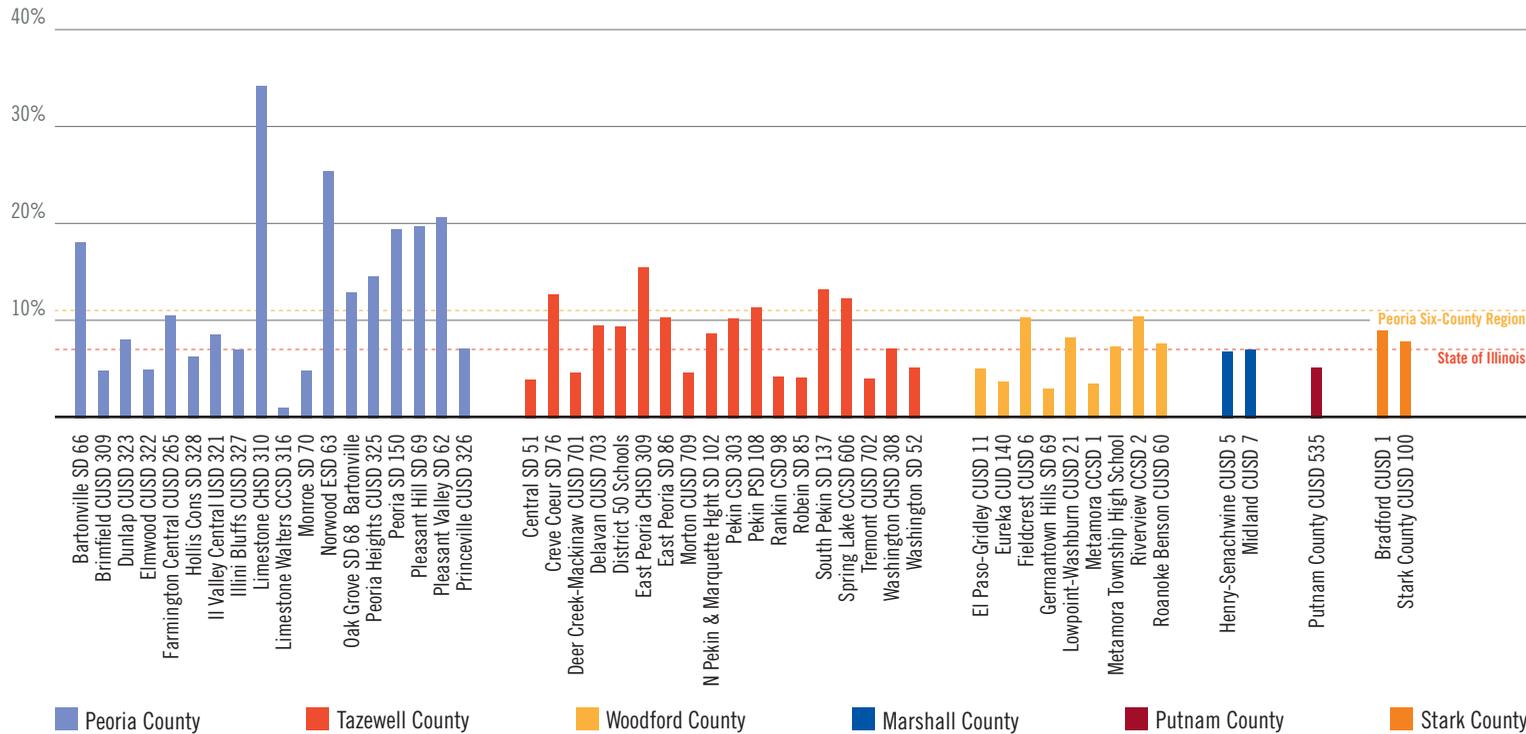


State of Illinois

Illinois State Board of Education, 2018-2019 District Report Card Summary

MOBILITY RATES

Peoria Six-County Region, 2018-2019



Illinois State Board of Education, 2018-2019 District Report Card Summary

Students may change schools for various reasons—including a family move, a transfer to a school that better serves their needs, or a period of homelessness. Changing schools too often, however, can disrupt academic progress and normal childhood development because it ends students' relationships with peers and educators. These effects can be seen on test scores and high school graduation rates. While some student mobility can be traced to the inability to pay rent, a larger underlying problem may be the availability of affordable housing.

EDUCATION

Chronic truancy has been linked to serious delinquent activity in youth and to significant negative behavior and characteristics in adults, while excessive student absenteeism is linked to higher rates of poverty, health challenges, community violence and difficult family circumstances.

CHRONIC TRUANCY

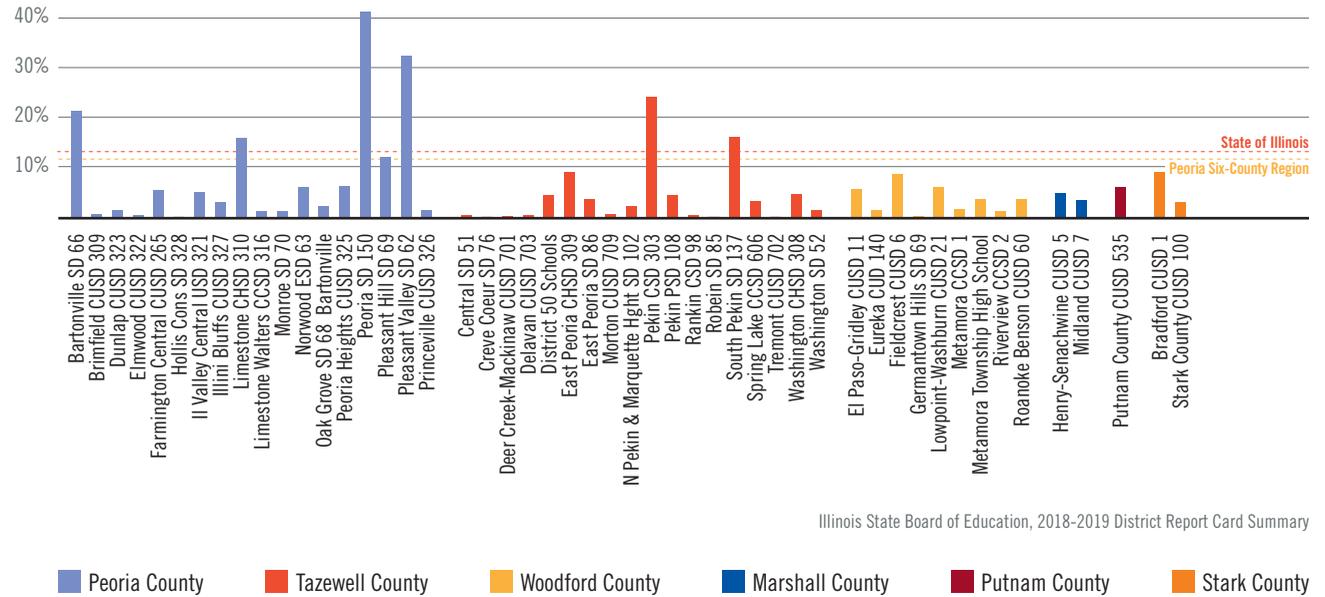
Chronically truant students suffer a higher risk of academic and behavioral problems. The causes of truancy vary with the age of children. Truancy in elementary school tends to result from the decisions and actions of the child's parents or caregivers, while middle and high school students are more likely to be truant as a result of their own behavior and choices.

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Students need daily instruction in order to succeed. Education can only help students overcome differences in privilege and background when they are in school every day, receiving the support they need to learn and thrive. Students who are chronically absent—meaning they miss at least 18 days in a school year without a valid excuse—are at serious risk of falling behind academically and have a greater risk of social problems.

CHRONIC TRUANCY

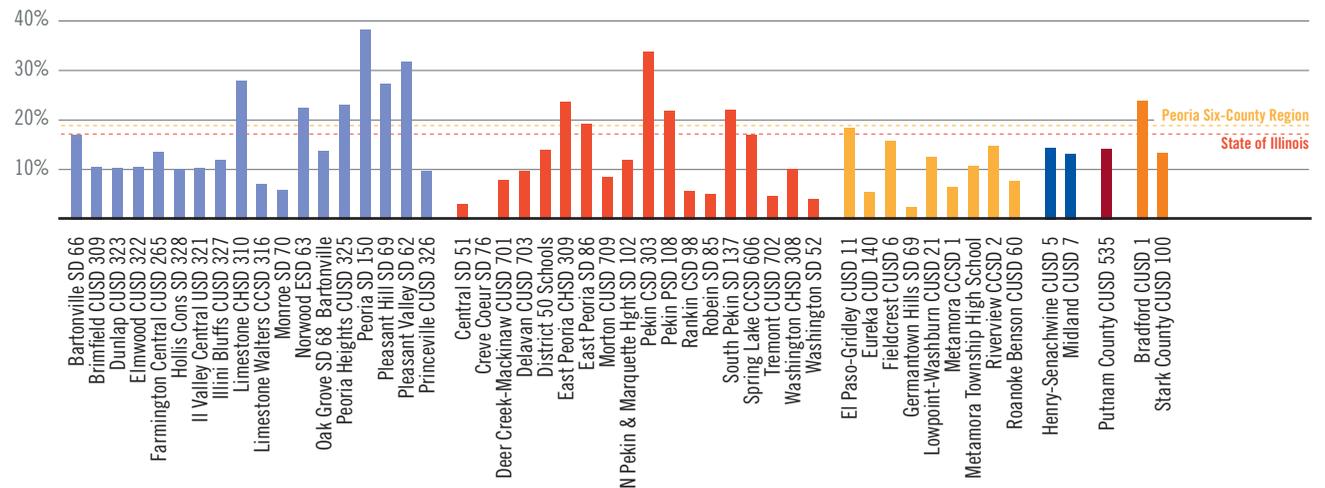
Peoria Six-County Region, 2018-2019



Illinois State Board of Education, 2018-2019 District Report Card Summary

CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

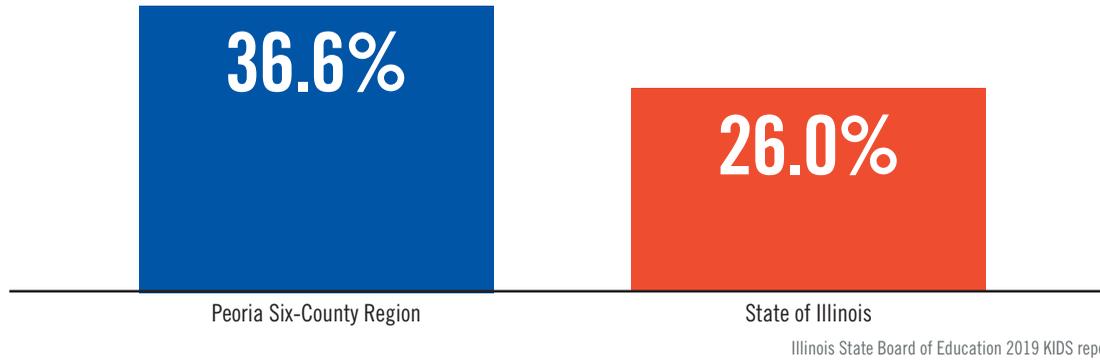
Peoria Six-County Region, 2018-2019



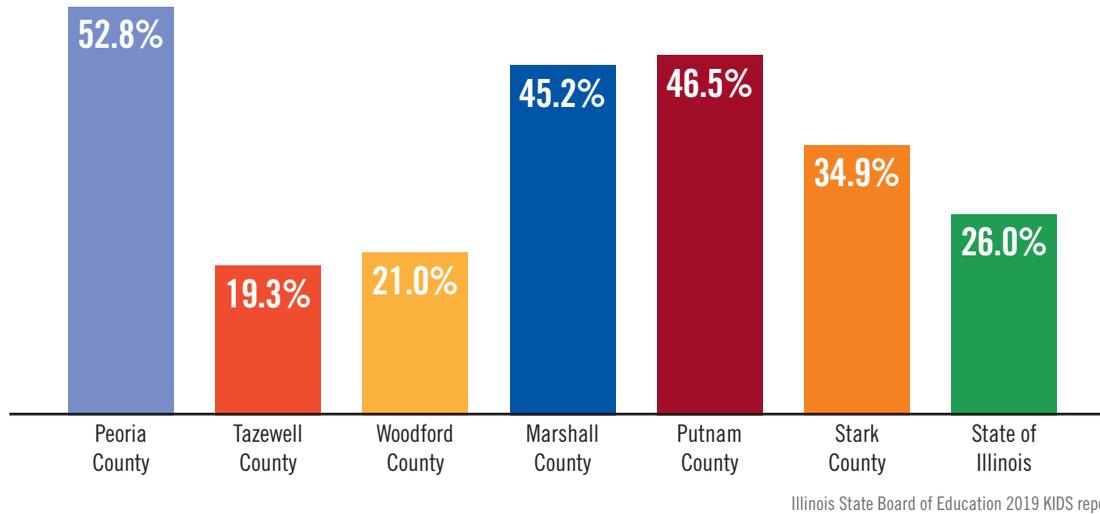
Illinois State Board of Education, 2018-2019 District Report Card Summary

KINDERGARTEN READINESS

Peoria Six-County Region vs. State of Illinois, 2018



Peoria Region, County by County



Kindergarten readiness measures developmental attributes that may impact a child's ability to adapt to the classroom. In 2018, the Peoria Six-County Region had a significantly higher percentage of students ready for kindergarten than the State of Illinois, led by Peoria, Marshall and Putnam counties. However, Tazewell and Woodford counties were significantly lower than the state average.

The Peoria Region's overall higher performance may be due to the Heart of Illinois United Way's Success by 6[®] program, an early childhood education initiative that provides opportunities for early learning and pre-literacy skill development. It is led by a community-based team of business leaders, educators and child advocates who strive to guarantee at-risk children from birth to age six are healthy, safe, nurtured and ready to succeed.

“**HIGH-QUALITY EARLY EDUCATION, SPECIFICALLY PROGRAMS AT SCHOOLS AND CHILDCARE CENTERS, PREPARE CHILDREN FOR SUCCESS IN KINDERGARTEN AND BEYOND.**”



EDUCATION

One of the most reliable predictors of academic achievement is whether or not a child can read at a third-grade level by the end of third grade.

ASSESSING STUDENT READINESS

The Illinois Assessment of Readiness is a federally required measure of mastery of the Illinois Learning Standards in English Language Arts and Mathematics for students in grades three through eight. Most importantly, it is a measure of the student's readiness for what comes next in their academic and working careers.

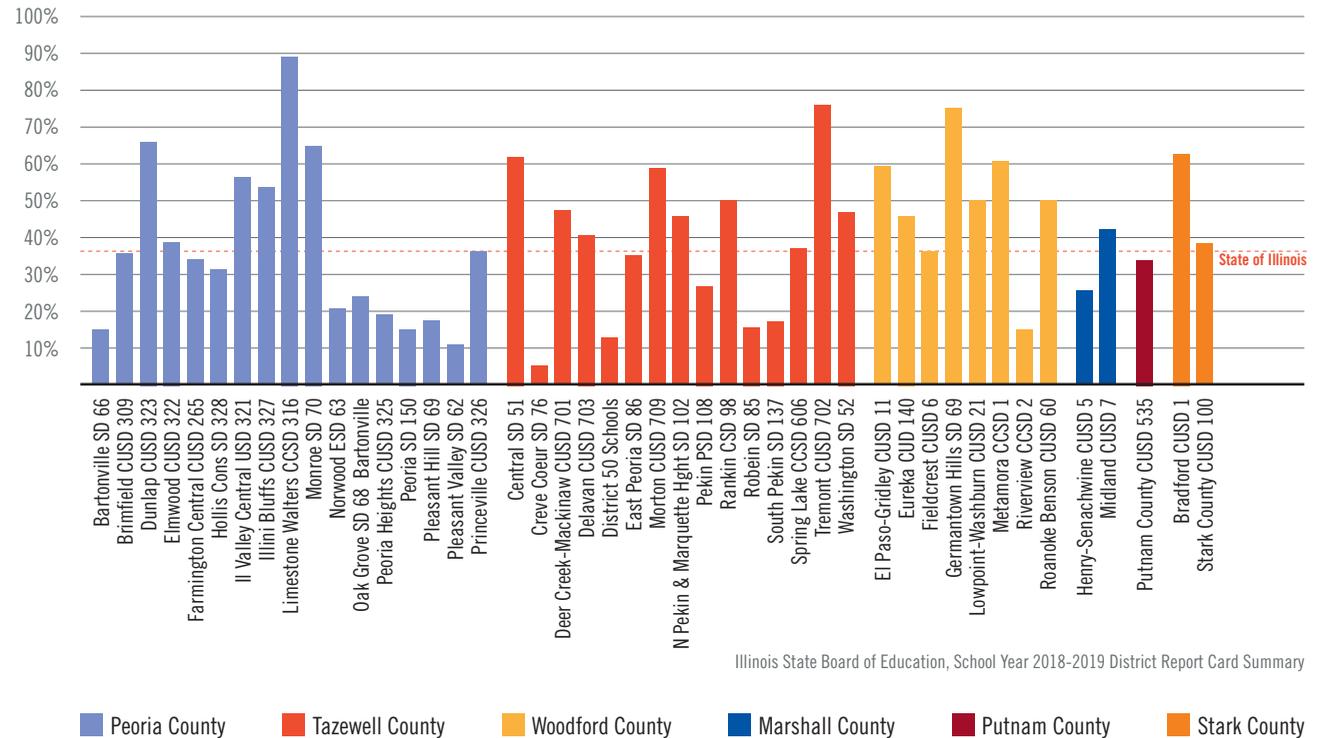
Under Common Core Standards, schools and teachers can use testing results to improve student achievement and prepare students for not only the next grade level, but life after high school. As a natural outgrowth of supporting college and career readiness, these standards provide a vision of what it means to be a literate person in the 21st century by focusing on the skills students are expected to demonstrate in the workplace.

ELA LEARNING STANDARDS

The Illinois Learning Standards for English Language Arts (ELA) establish clear and coherent expectations for what students should know and be able to do at each grade level. Students who meet these standards develop skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening that are the foundation for purposeful expression and an understanding of key concepts.

THIRD GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS PROFICIENCY

Peoria Six-County Region, 2018-2019



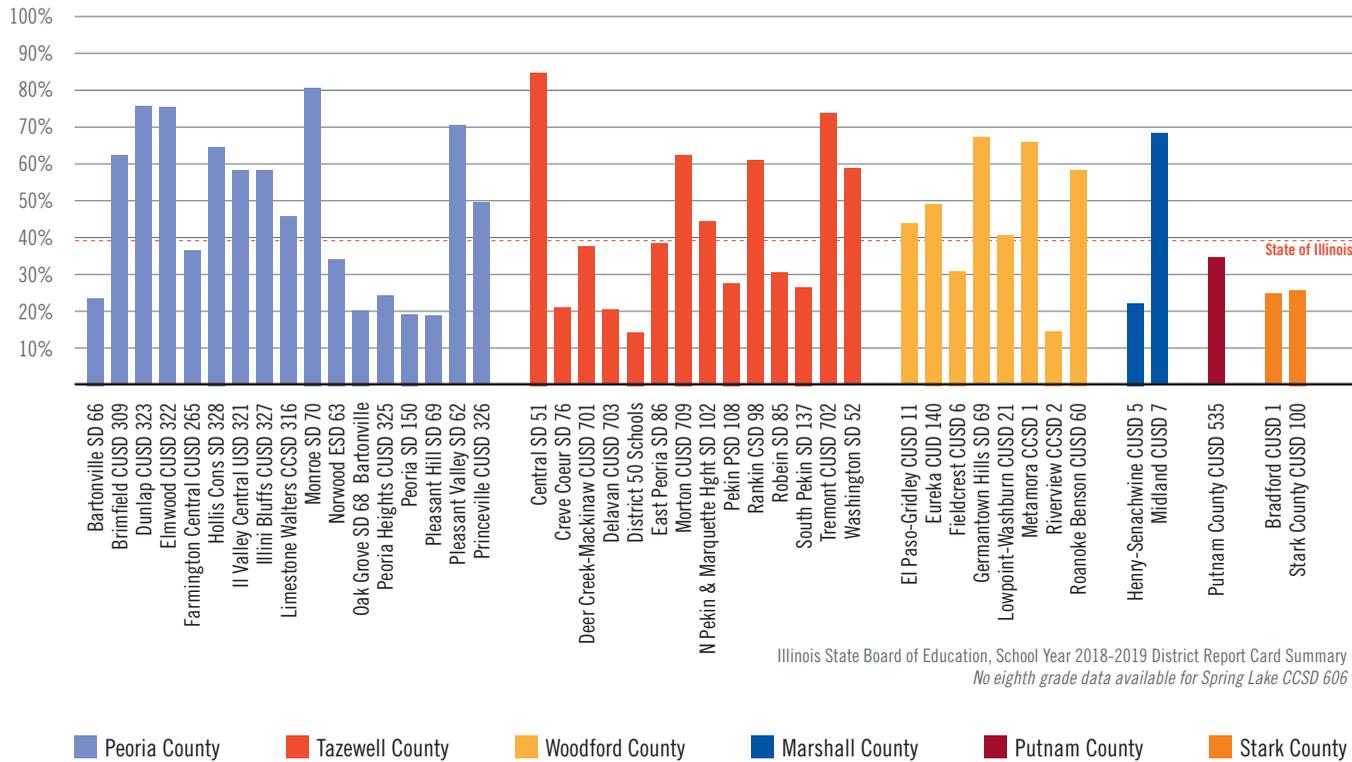
Nine of the 15 school districts in Tazewell County scored above the State of Illinois averages for third grade ELA levels, compared to just six of 17 districts in Peoria County. In Marshall, Putnam, Stark and Woodford counties, nine of 13 school districts scored above the state average. Overall, 21 of the 45 school districts in the region with third grade students were below the state average for third grade ELA proficiency.

READING: A CRITICAL MILESTONE

Reading proficiently by the end of third grade can be a make-or-break benchmark as it measures how well a student will progress into middle school and beyond. If a child is not able to enter fourth grade reading proficiently, a majority of the curriculum could be incomprehensible to them. In addition, research shows that low-income students who are not reading at grade level by the end of third grade are more likely to remain low-income adults.

EIGHTH GRADE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS PROFICIENCY

Peoria Six-County Region, 2018-2019



Illinois State Board of Education, School Year 2018-2019 District Report Card Summary
No eighth grade data available for Spring Lake CCSD 606

“STUDENTS WHO MEET ELA STANDARDS GAIN THE READING SKILLS NECESSARY TO COMPREHEND THE STAGGERING AMOUNT OF INFORMATION AVAILABLE TODAY IN PRINT AND DIGITAL FORM.”

Just six of 14 school districts in Tazewell County scored above the State of Illinois averages for eighth grade ELA levels, compared to 10 of 17 districts in Peoria County. In Marshall, Putnam, Stark and Woodford counties, seven of 13 school districts scored above the state average. Overall, 21 of the 44 school districts in the region with eighth grade students were below the state average for eighth grade ELA proficiency.

BUILDING SKILLS FOR HIGH SCHOOL

Skills related to English Language Arts build through the eighth grade, as students are expected to read more complex texts including fiction, nonfiction, essays, speeches, biographies, and textbooks on other subjects such as history and science. Students at this level must also be able to write short compositions and begin researching and writing longer papers. It is vital that a student is proficient in eighth grade reading, writing and speaking skills before entering high school.



EDUCATION

An understanding of mathematics is vital for success in today's technology-driven society—and is a strong predictor of a child's overall academic success, regardless of family income.

MATHEMATICAL LITERACY

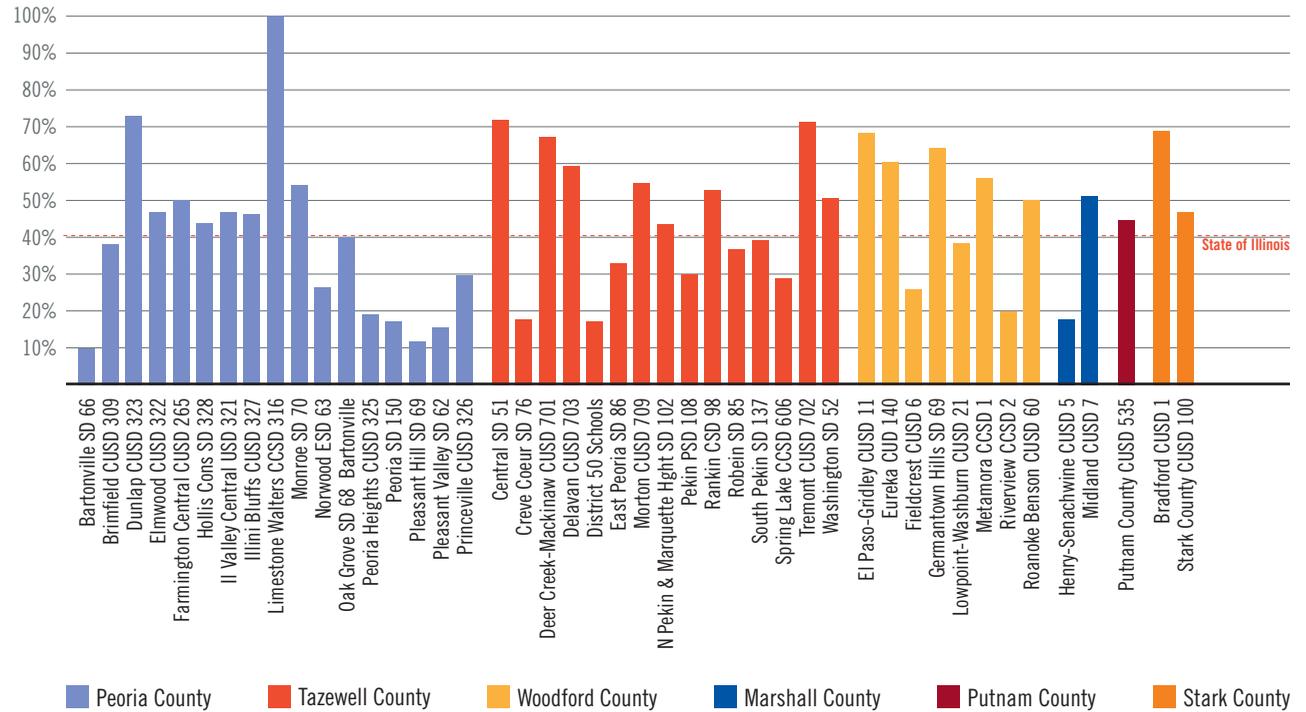
Mathematical literacy is crucial to middle-skilled occupations that require education beyond high school but not more than a four-year degree—including jobs in healthcare, manufacturing, sales and transportation—as technology continues to change job requirements in these sectors.

MATH LEARNING STANDARDS

The Illinois Learning Standards for Math are geared to help students develop a framework for 21st-century skills and prepare them to enter college and/or a career. They are designed to help students acquire a deep, conceptual understanding of core math content by adding focus, coherence and rigor to learning. This allows students to build upon their skills each year, creating opportunities for deeper conceptual understanding and application.

THIRD GRADE MATH PROFICIENCY

Peoria Six-County Region, 2018-2019



Illinois State Board of Education, School Year 2018-2019 District Report Card Summary

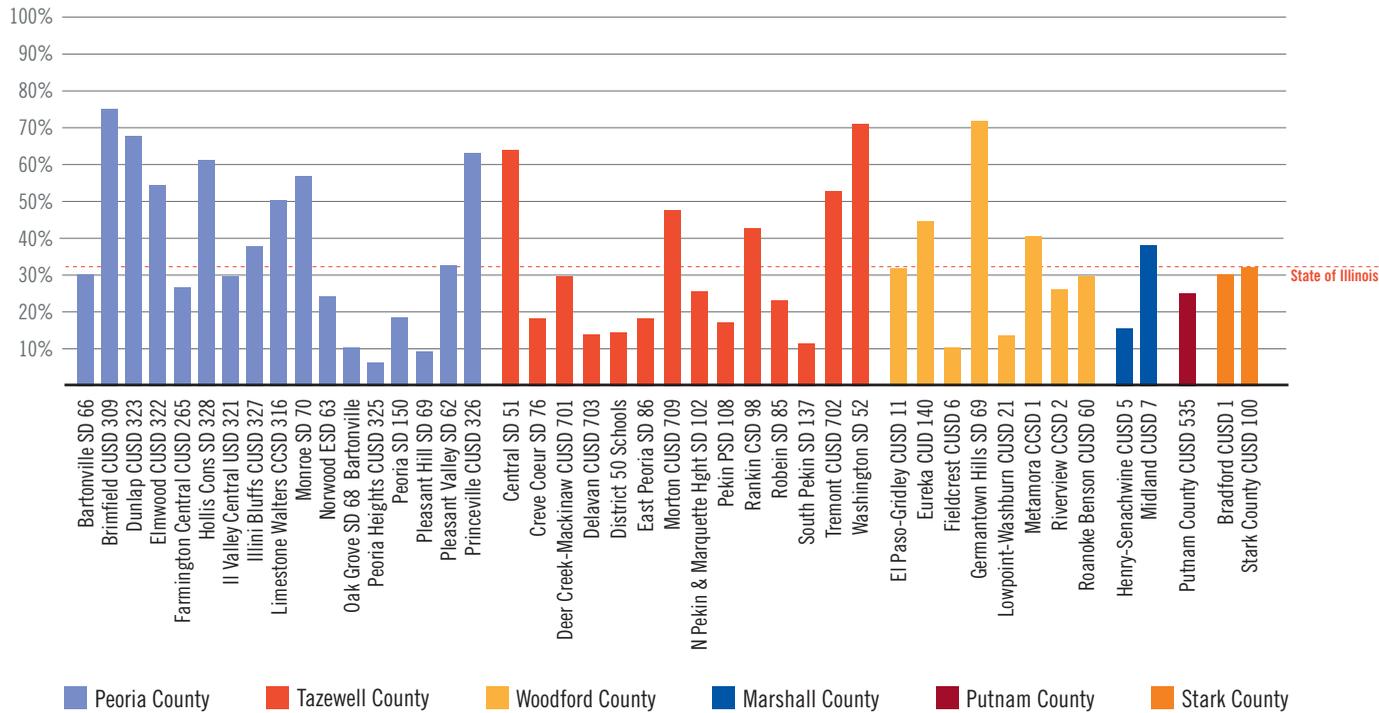
Eight of the 15 school districts in Tazewell County scored above the State of Illinois averages for third grade math levels, compared to eight of 17 districts in Peoria County. In Marshall, Putnam, Stark and Woodford counties, nine of 13 school districts scored above the state average. Overall, 20 of the 45 school districts in the region with third grade students were below the state average for third grade math proficiency.

PREDICTORS OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Proficiency in middle school math is a key stepping stone to high school academic success and a predictor of high school graduation. In the third grade, students begin to learn multiplication and division. These more complex computations are not only the basis of measurements and recognition of patterns—they are the foundation of algebra, geometry, probability and statistics.

EIGHTH GRADE MATH PROFICIENCY

Peoria Six-County Region, 2018-2019



MORE THAN ANY PREVIOUS GENERATION, A SOLID BASE OF KNOWLEDGE IN MATHEMATICS IN THE 21ST CENTURY IS CRITICAL TO STUDENTS EFFECTIVELY USING INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY IN THEIR PERSONAL, ACADEMIC AND WORK LIVES.

Illinois State Board of Education, School Year 2018-2019 District Report Card Summary
 No eighth grade data available for Spring Lake CCSD 606

Just five of 14 school districts in Tazewell County scored above the State of Illinois averages for eighth grade math levels, compared to eight of 17 districts in Peoria County. In Marshall, Putnam, Stark and Woodford counties, four of 13 school districts scored above the state average. Overall, 27 of the 44 school districts in the region with eighth grade students were below the state average for eighth grade math proficiency.

BUILDING FUTURE STEM CAREERS

Eighth grade math scores play a critical role in what math course a student will be placed upon entering ninth grade. Math proficiency during middle school is not only vital to graduating high school on time, it is an indicator of success in future careers, especially those in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields.



EDUCATION

High school graduation rates are a barometer of a community's ability to provide employers with a skilled workforce. The rising disparity between the wages of high school graduates and dropouts is a strong incentive to complete high school.

BENCHMARK FOR SUCCESS

A high school diploma is vital for students who plan to enter college or the workforce. Although graduation rates fluctuate over time, multiple factors influence whether or not a student graduates from high school: economic and demographic factors, how well the student performs in ninth grade, school attendance, student engagement and course failure. As the student population becomes more diverse, there is an increased need to better understand demographic differences and the specific needs of individual student populations.

MIDDLE-SKILL DEMAND

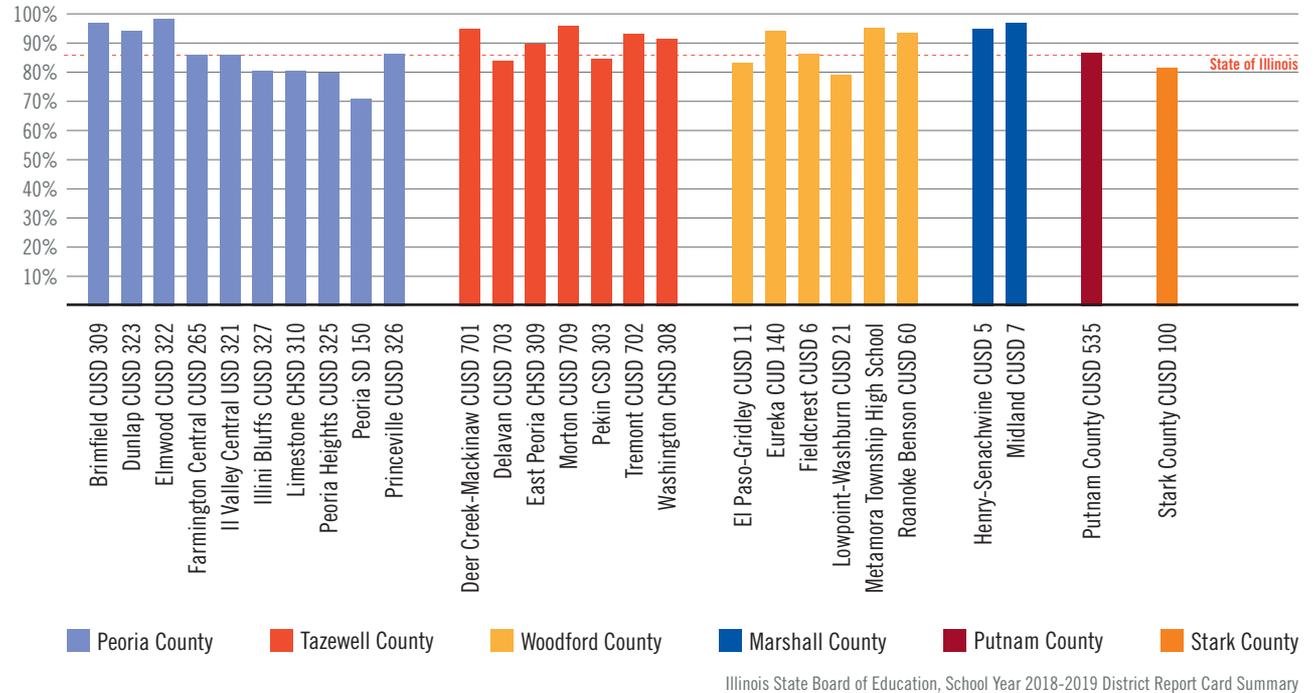
Demand for middle-skill jobs is expected to remain strong well into the future, accounting for nearly half of all job openings through 2024. By comparison, high-skill jobs—those requiring a bachelor's degree or beyond—represent 32 percent of job openings, while lower-skill jobs represent 20 percent of job openings.

THE SKILLS GAP

Although middle-skill jobs account for 53 percent of the labor market, only 43 percent of workers have access to middle-skill training, presenting a skills gap in the workforce.

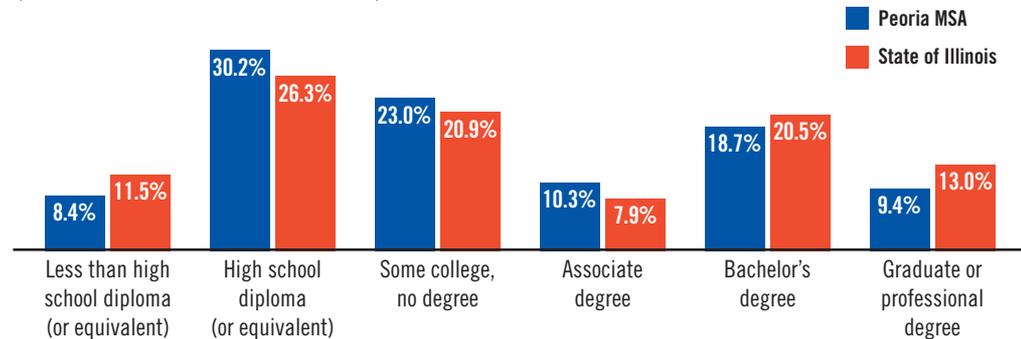
4-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

Peoria Six-County Region, 2018-2019



EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Ages 25+, Peoria MSA vs. State of Illinois, 2017



U.S. Census Bureau 2017 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

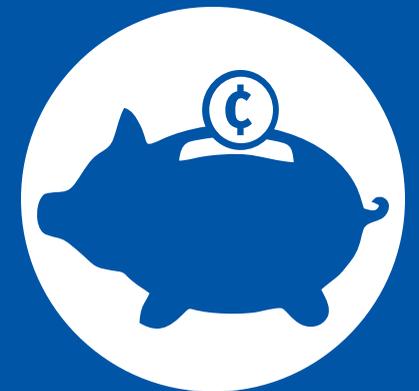
The Peoria MSA has a higher percentage of residents who have completed a high school degree than the State of Illinois (91.6% vs. 88.5%)—as well as a higher percentage of residents who have completed associate degrees. However, Peoria lags behind the state for attaining bachelor's degrees and graduate/professional degrees.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

The ability of families and individuals to fulfill basic needs such as food, housing and childcare is an important step in building a stronger, more sustainable community. By helping families become more self-reliant, they can reach long-term financial stability.

FINANCIAL STABILITY TRENDS

- The number of low-income households in the Peoria MSA is increasing—as a larger percentage of households are earning less than \$35,000, while the number of households earning \$35,000 or more has declined.
- Household income in the Peoria MSA is disproportionately affected by race and gender, which is reflected in the level of income earned by educational attainment.
- Poverty rates in the Peoria MSA remain steady. However, single-parent households—particularly those with a female head of household and children under 18—are much more likely to live in poverty.



FINANCIAL STABILITY

Households that are financially stable have sufficient income and economic resources to afford basic needs such as housing, food, clothing, childcare and transportation—as well as the ability to save for the future.

OBSTACLES TO STABILITY

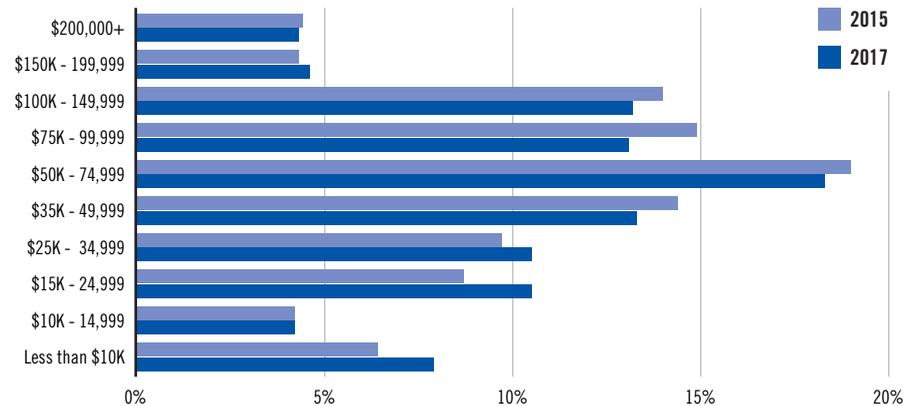
Low-income and moderate-income households face many obstacles to achieving financial stability, including lower wages, higher housing costs, the inability to consistently pay for utilities or food, and often, a disconnect from conventional financial services.

When households are forced to live paycheck to paycheck, just one emergency—such as a hospitalization or the breakdown of the family car—can lead to larger issues such as homelessness.

The lack of adequate financial resources, however, is not limited to low and moderate-income levels. Nationally, more than 40 percent of households do not have enough savings or assets to cover basic expenses for three months in case of an emergency, nor do they have enough assets to make a down payment on a home, invest in college or plan for retirement.

HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Peoria MSA, 2015 vs. 2017

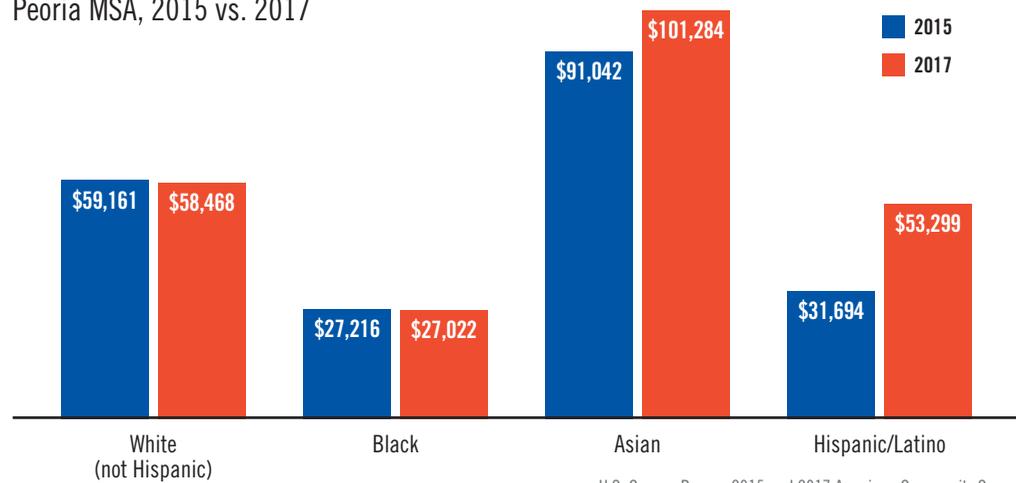


U.S. Census Bureau 2015 and 2017 American Community Survey

The number of low to middle-income households in the Peoria MSA is increasing. The percentage of households making less than \$35,000 per year increased from 2015 to 2017, while households earning between \$35,000 and \$74,999 declined, as did those earning between \$100,000 and \$149,999.

MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME BY RACE

Peoria MSA, 2015 vs. 2017

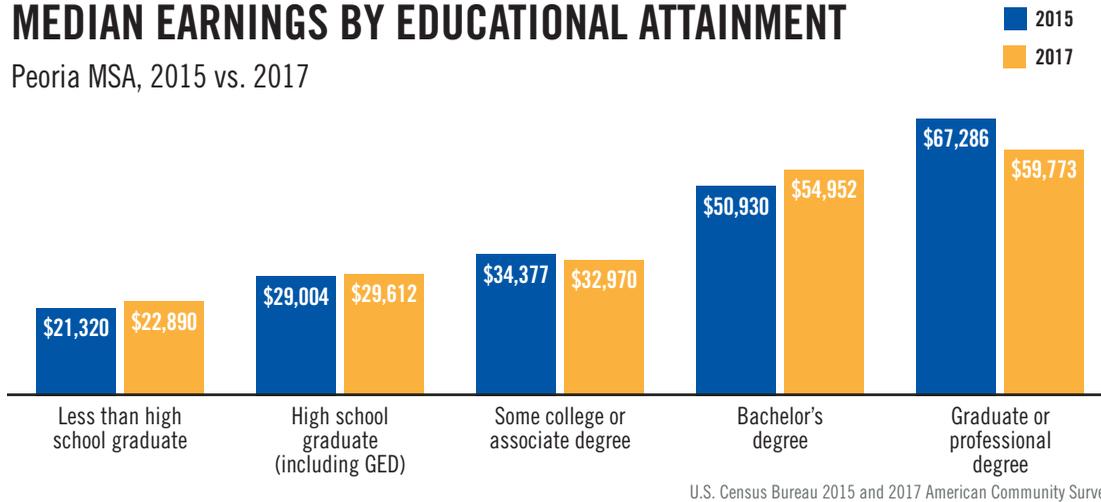


U.S. Census Bureau 2015 and 2017 American Community Survey

There continues to be significant income disparities in the Peoria MSA, with Black residents earning significantly less than all other races/ethnicities. While the median income of White and Black residents remained flat between 2015 and 2017, Hispanic/Latino residents experienced a dramatic increase during the same time period.

MEDIAN EARNINGS BY EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Peoria MSA, 2015 vs. 2017

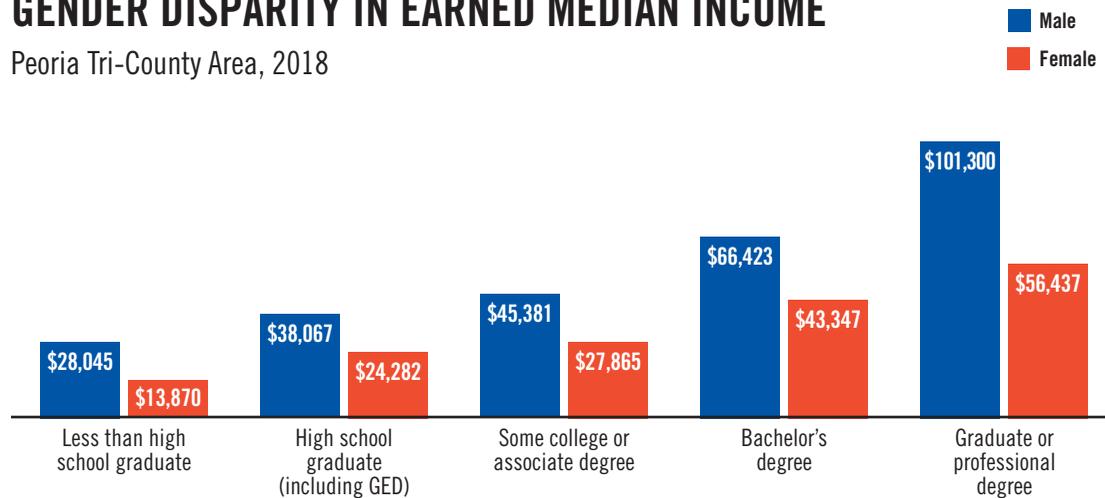


U.S. Census Bureau 2015 and 2017 American Community Survey

Income is directly correlated with the level of education a person has attained. However, while annual earnings in most categories remained relatively stable between 2015 and 2017, those with advanced degrees experienced a significant decline.

GENDER DISPARITY IN EARNED MEDIAN INCOME

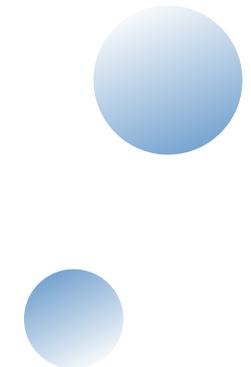
Peoria Tri-County Area, 2018



U.S. Census Bureau 2018 American Community Survey

Significant gender disparity continues to exist between men and women across all levels of education. In fact, men without a high school diploma earn slightly more than women with some college or an associate degree.

“
MEDIAN EARNINGS FOR MALES 25+ ARE SIGNIFICANTLY HIGHER THAN FEMALES ACROSS ALL DEGREE LEVELS IN THE PEORIA MSA, AND MEDIAN INCOME FOR FEMALES WITH A GRADUATE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE IS ONLY 14% HIGHER THAN THAT OF A MALE WITH SOME COLLEGE OR AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE.
 ”



FINANCIAL STABILITY

Approximately 40% of workers ages 18 to 64 in the Peoria MSA are considered low-wage workers, with income levels that leave them struggling to reach financial stability, according to the Brookings Institution.

CHANGES IN POVERTY

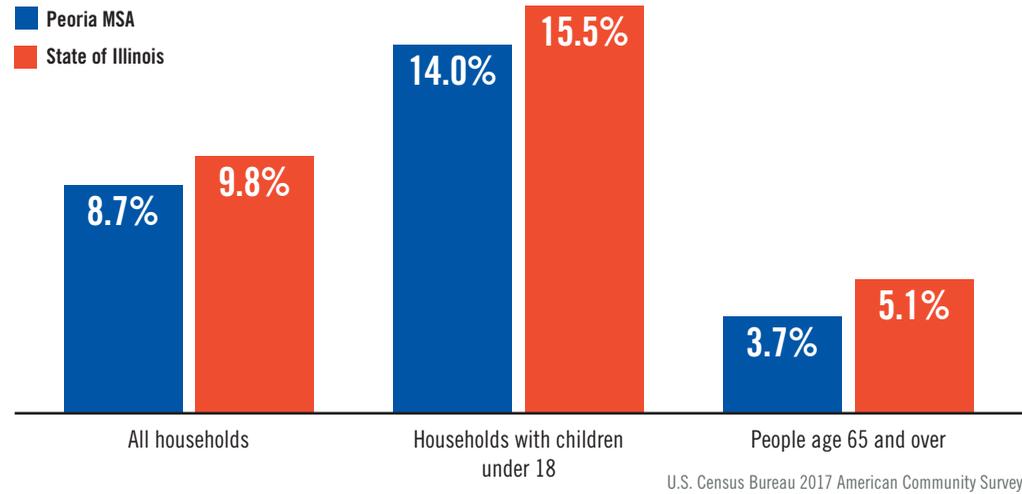
In recent years, the percentage of Peoria MSA residents living in poverty has remained slightly below that of the State of Illinois. From 2015 to 2017, the poverty rate declined by 2% in the Peoria MSA, while there was an increase of 0.2% in the State of Illinois.

Poverty rates are lowest in traditional married-couple families. Families with a female head of household are more than 10 times likely to experience poverty in the Peoria MSA—despite a slight decline between 2015 and 2017.

More than a decade after the 2008 recession, income growth continues to be uneven by race, ethnicity and gender. Nationally, research by the Economic Policy Institute shows that the median income for Black households remains at or below pre-recession levels. Poverty rates in all types of families are likely to worsen as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

POVERTY RATES

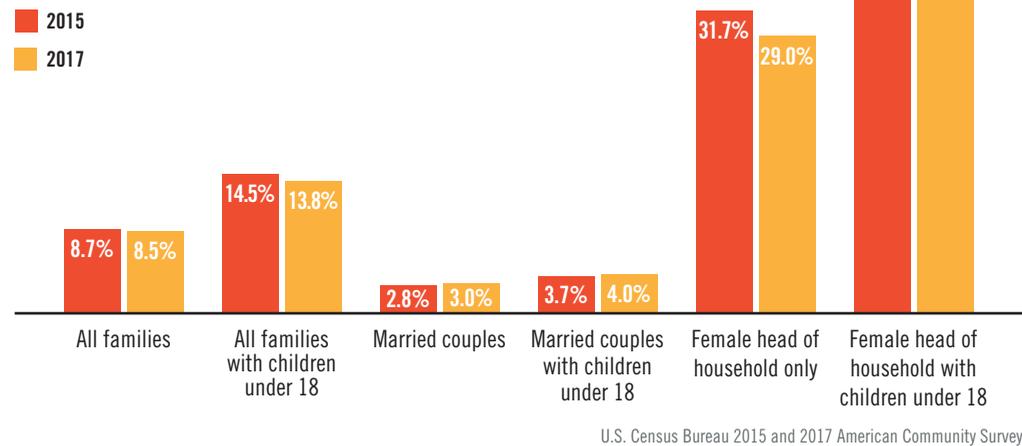
Peoria MSA vs. State of Illinois, 2017



Poverty has a significant impact on the development of children and youth. Poverty rates in both the Peoria MSA and the State of Illinois are higher in households with children under the age of 18.

POVERTY AND FAMILY COMPOSITION

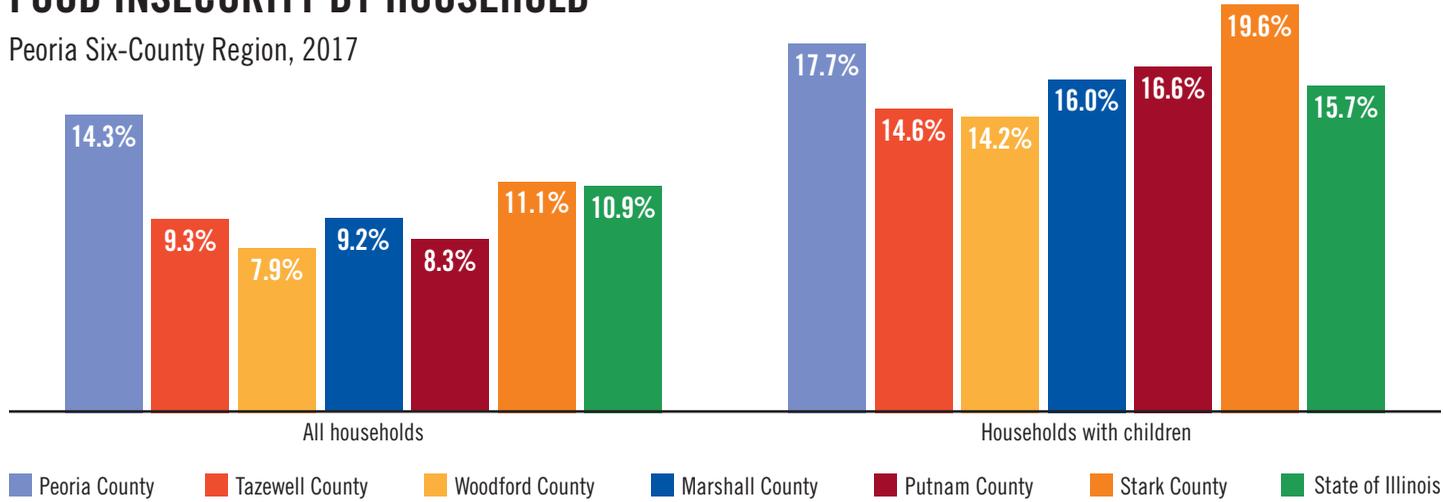
Peoria MSA, 2015 vs. 2017



Family composition and poverty are significantly related, with two-parent families and families without children less likely to be living in poverty than single-parent families. Poverty rates for families with a female head of household are dramatically higher than all other categories.

FOOD INSECURITY BY HOUSEHOLD

Peoria Six-County Region, 2017



Feeding America, 2017 American Community Survey and 2017 Bureau of Labor Statistics



Households with children experience food insecurity at a higher rate than those without children. The USDA defines households as “food secure” if they have access at all times to enough food for all household members.





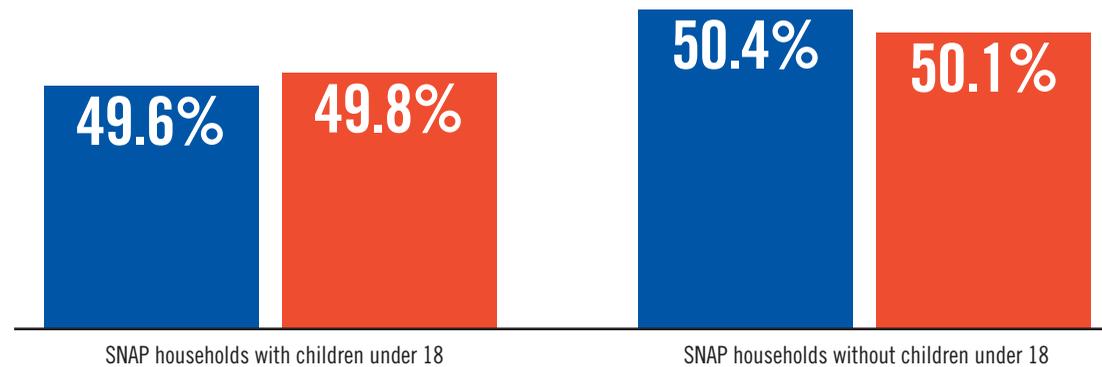
ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY

More than 23,300 people in the Peoria Tri-County Area go hungry at least once a week, according to the 2019 Tri-County Community Health Needs Assessment. SNAP benefits can help low-income families purchase the food they need and increase the portion of their income that can be used to meet other basic needs. Children of families who receive SNAP assistance benefit from improved health and wellbeing, leading to greater academic success as well.

SNAP HOUSEHOLDS, WITH AND WITHOUT CHILDREN

Peoria MSA, 2015 vs. 2018

■ 2015
■ 2018



U.S. Census Bureau 2015 & 2018 American Community Survey

Overall, 12.4% of Peoria MSA households received Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits in 2018, with a larger percentage of households in Peoria, Stark and Tazewell counties receiving assistance.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

Without a stable home, it is difficult for individuals to maintain employment. Households with a high housing cost burden lack the ability to save for the future or plan for emergencies. Reducing housing instability is critical to improving overall financial stability.

HOUSING CHALLENGES

Housing instability encompasses many challenges, including trouble paying rent, overcrowding, moving frequently, staying with relatives, and spending the majority of household income on housing. Low-income households may be forced to rent substandard housing that exposes them to health and safety risks such as vermin, mold, water leaks, and inadequate heating or cooling systems. This may also affect mental health, stress levels, relationships, sleep and the risk of infectious disease.

ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Low-income households spend a much larger percentage of their income on energy bills than higher-income households, which may cause them to cut back on other necessities such as food and medicine. Energy assistance can help these households—particularly those with young children, seniors and persons with disabilities—avoid food insecurity and remain financially stable.

DISPROPORTIONATE HOUSING NEEDS

Peoria Six-County Region, 2016

23.1% of households have at least one of the following disproportionate housing needs:



More than one person per room



Incomplete plumbing facilities



Incomplete kitchen facilities



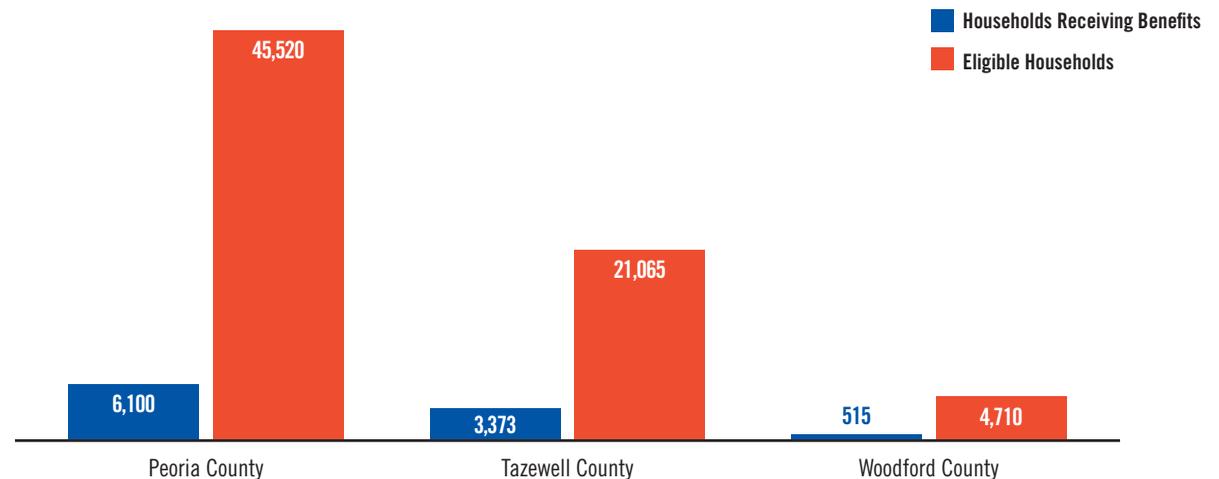
Housing cost burden greater than 30%

HUD Disproportionate Housing Data for 2016

Low-income households and renters have a much higher rate of housing problems than homeowners and middle/upper-income households. Housing problems in the Peoria Six-County Region are less prevalent than they are across the State of Illinois.

HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVING ENERGY ASSISTANCE

Peoria Tri-County Area, 2018

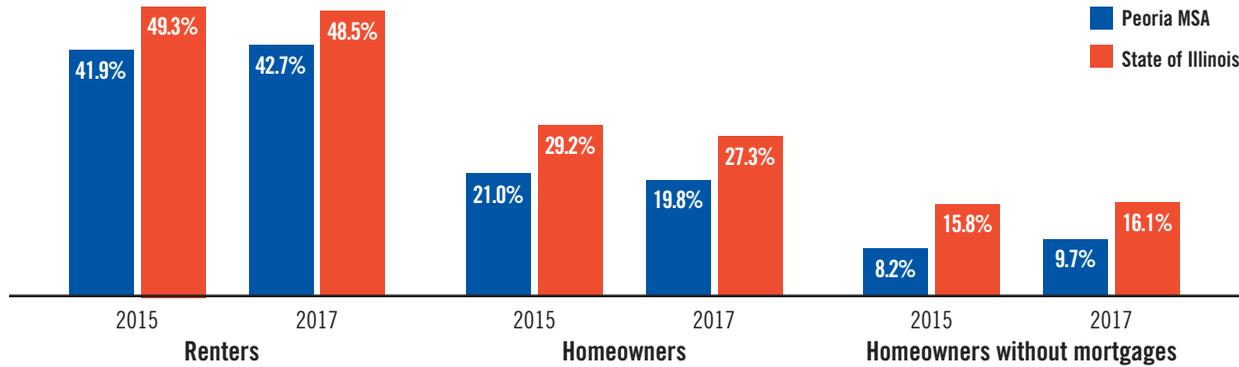


Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies, LIHEAP Data by County, 2018-2019
U.S. Census Bureau 2018 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Households living at 150% of the federal poverty level are eligible for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) to help manage costs associated with home energy bills. However, just 14% of eligible households in the Tri-County Area receive LIHEAP assistance, which lags significantly behind the state average (25.4%).

HOUSING COST BURDEN

Peoria MSA vs. State of Illinois, 2015 vs. 2017



U.S. Census Bureau 2015 and 2017 American Community Survey

Housing cost burden—defined as having to pay 30% or more of a family’s income for housing—is significantly less for individuals in the Peoria MSA than in the State of Illinois. Overall, housing cost burden is highest among renters and lowest for homeowners without a mortgage.

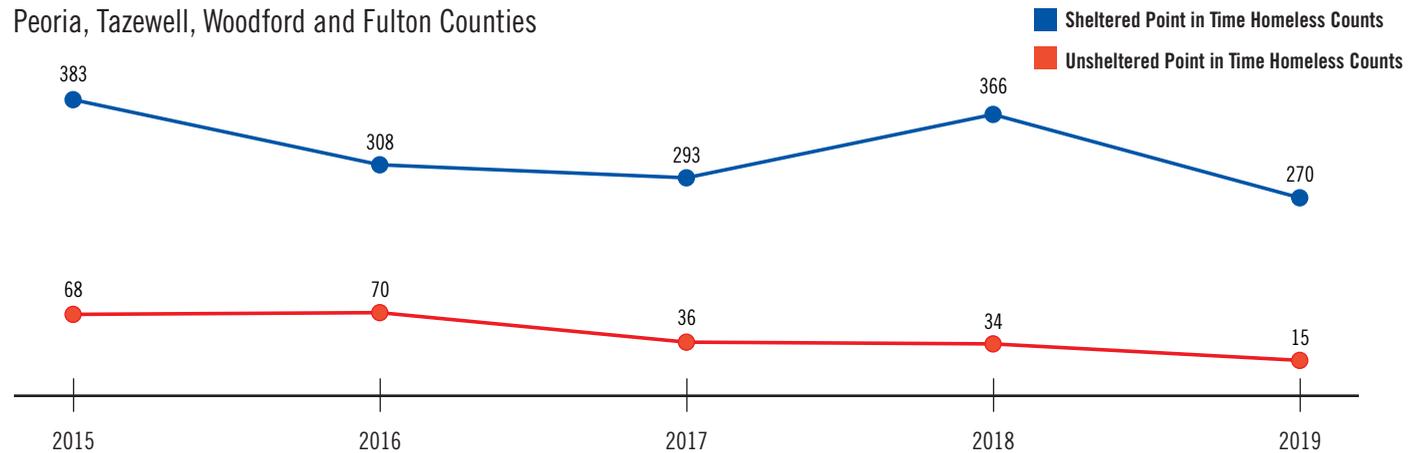
RENTAL EXPENSES

Rental expenses for the Peoria MSA (\$577) are significantly lower than the State of Illinois (\$621). Renters in the Peoria MSA experienced a decline in the supply of vacant housing options from 2015 to 2017, however, while the State of Illinois remained stable.

Since 2016, the Home for All Continuum of Care has partnered with the Heart of Illinois United Way to build a sustainable collaboration of more than 50 cross-sector organizations aligning to end homelessness in central Illinois through support of individuals and families seeking permanent, safe and affordable housing.

HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS, SHELTERED AND UNSHELTERED

Peoria, Tazewell, Woodford and Fulton Counties



2011-2019 Homeless Assessment Report to Congress: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Office of Community Planning and Development

HUD requires a point-in-time count of homeless persons who are living on the streets, places not meant for human habitation, emergency shelters and transitional housing. This is a census data point that counts homeless people on one night in a designated community. In 2019, Home for All Continuum of Care reported 285 total homeless individuals, down slightly from 2018.

FINANCIAL STABILITY

HOUSEHOLD INCOME SOURCES

Peoria MSA, 2018

Percentage of Households with Earnings, Cash and Non-Cash Programs, and Retirement Income

Earnings	74.9%
Social Security Income	32.5%
Retirement Income	24.2%
Non-Cash Assistance (SNAP)	12.4%
Supplemental Social Security Income	4.7%
Cash Assistance Programs	2.5%

2018 American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau, 5-Year Estimates

Most households in the Peoria MSA earn wages, salaries or self-employment income. The average amount of income earned from Social Security is \$19,698, average income from Supplemental Social Security is \$10,101, and average income from cash assistance programs (such as TANF) is \$2,724. These supplemental sources of income can be combined with earnings and retirement income.

Most cash (TANF) and nutrition assistance (SNAP) programs include work-related requirements as a condition of eligibility. Various studies on the effectiveness of these requirements show modest employment increases that declined with time and did not increase stable employment, with most working TANF recipients having household incomes below 100 percent of the federal poverty level.

MINIMUM HOURLY WAGES REQUIRED TO MEET BASIC NEEDS

Peoria Six-County Region, 2017

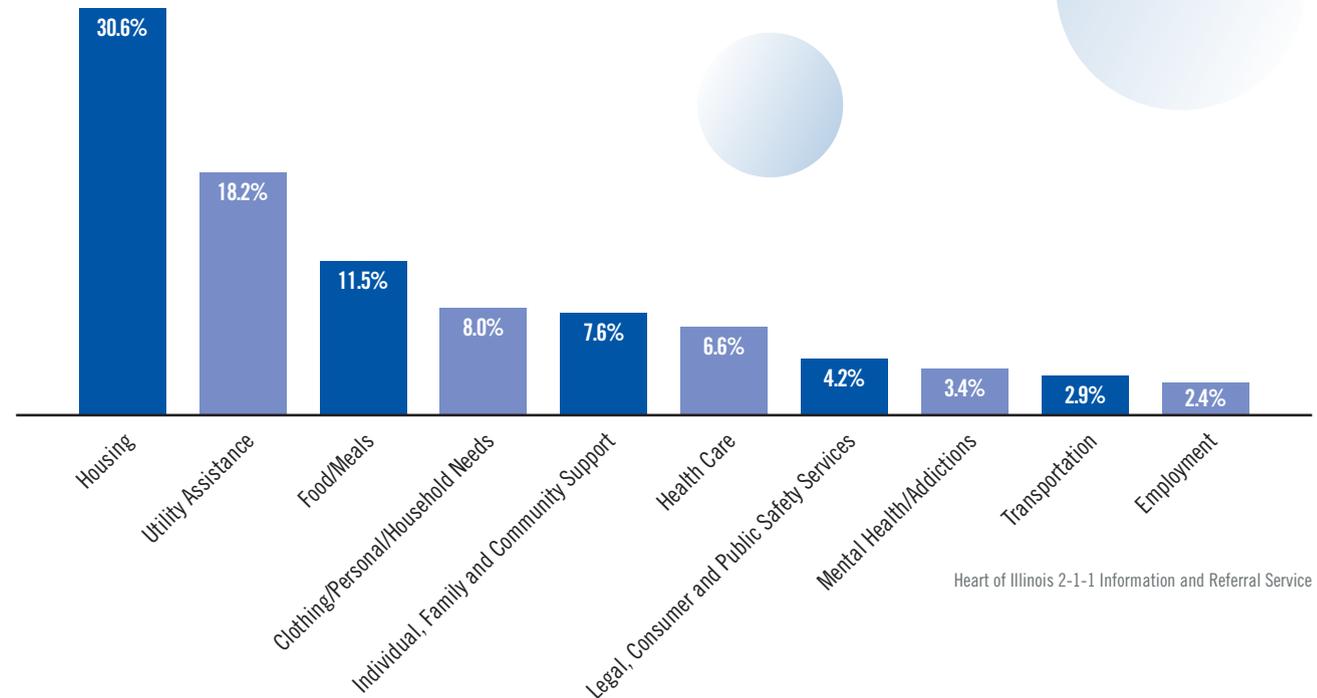


Compiled by United for ALICE™ on behalf of United Way of Illinois

Stable jobs that pay family-sustaining wages are critical for financial stability. Earning the bare minimum to cover the costs of basic necessities—including housing, childcare, food, transportation, health care and a smartphone—does not allow for savings or even a household internet plan. These jobs require education beyond high school, suggesting the need not only to help people access jobs, but education and training as well.

MOST IDENTIFIED NEEDS

Heart of Illinois 2-1-1, 2019



Heart of Illinois 2-1-1 Information and Referral Service

Heart of Illinois 2-1-1 is a comprehensive information and referral line to connect callers to critical health and human care programs in Peoria, Tazewell, Woodford, Marshall, Stark and Putnam counties. A partnership between the Heart of Illinois United Way and Advanced Medical Transport of Central Illinois, it ensures that individuals do not go without essential services when help is readily available. In addition, the data collected by 2-1-1 can be used to anticipate demand for health and human care services and identify emerging social trends to support community planning efforts.

HEALTH

All people in the Peoria Region should have access to healthcare, dental care and medications. It is imperative to provide opportunities for all residents to achieve optimal physical and mental health while promoting healthy lifestyles and healthy communities.

HEALTH TRENDS

- Mental health, particularly depression and anxiety, is perceived as one of the greatest health concerns in the Tri-County Area. However, many people report being unable to afford the co-pay for counseling or being self-conscious when seeking help.
- Lack of dental insurance coverage is a contributing factor as to why more than 28% of adults reported they have not been to the dentist within the last year.
- More than 64% of adults in the Tri-County Area are overweight or obese, and approximately 60% or more have not had a flu or pneumonia vaccination in the last year—even though both are leading causes of death in the region.



HEALTH

A community's health and wellness impacts every other area of the community, including education and financial stability. Healthier children miss fewer days of school and are more "ready to learn." In addition, it is difficult to hold a job when a person is not healthy.

ASSESSING COMMUNITY NEEDS

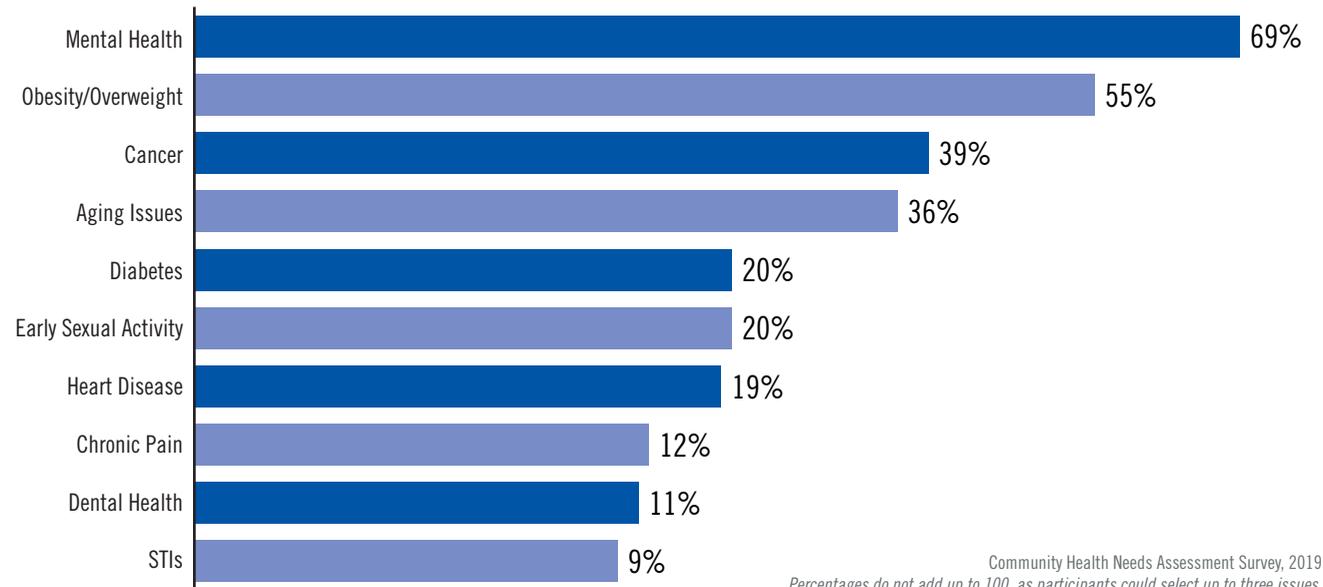
The Community Health Needs Assessment survey is a collaborative undertaking spearheaded by the Partnership for a Healthy Community—a multi-sector team including representatives from area hospitals and health systems, county health departments, nonprofits and higher education institutions.

The 2019 CHNA survey was conducted to highlight the health needs and well-being of residents in the Peoria Tri-County Area. Ultimately, four significant needs were identified and determined to have equal priority:

- Healthy eating/active living
- Cancer
- Mental health
- Substance use

PERCEPTION OF HEALTH ISSUES

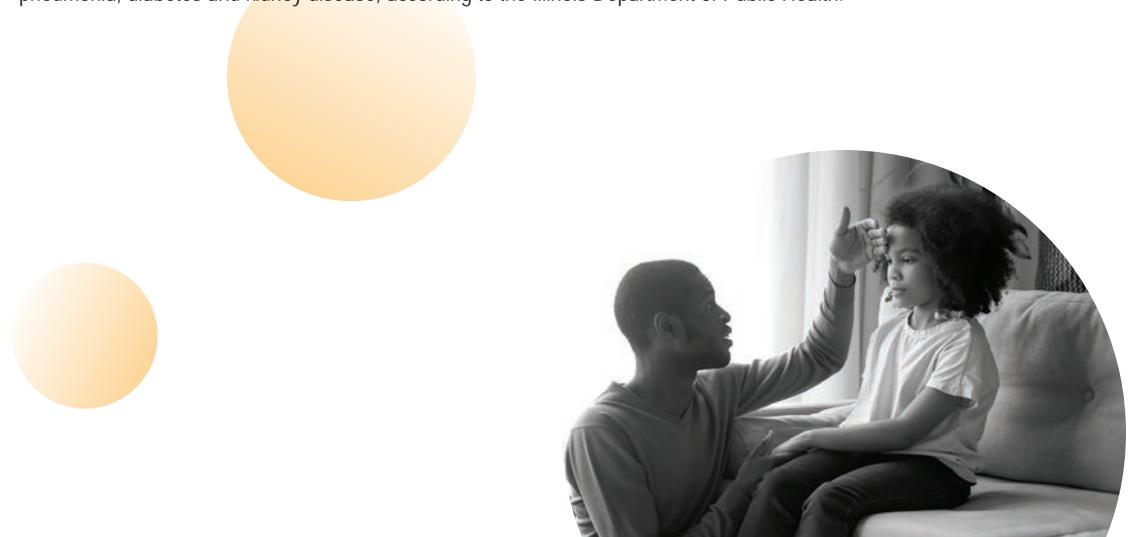
Peoria Tri-County Area, 2019



Community Health Needs Assessment Survey, 2019
Percentages do not add up to 100, as participants could select up to three issues.

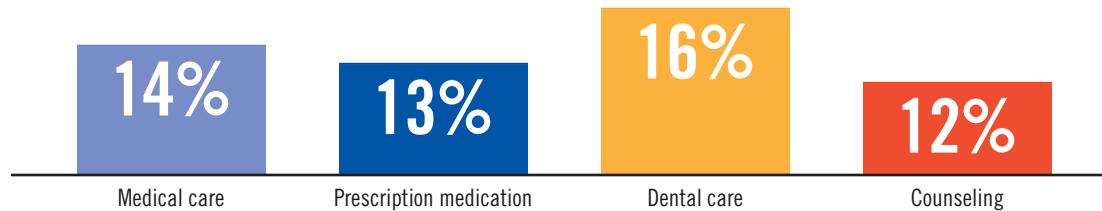
According to the 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) survey, mental health was identified as the most significant health issue in the Peoria Tri-County Area, affecting 69% of the population, followed by obesity/overweight (55%), cancer (39%) and aging issues (36%). While community perceptions were accurate in most cases, survey respondents ranked other concerns such as heart disease (the region's leading cause of death) and STIs with relative low importance.

The two leading causes of death in the Peoria Six-County Region in 2018 were heart disease (22% of total deaths) and cancer (21% of total deaths), followed by accidental deaths, stroke, chronic lower respiratory disease, Alzheimer's disease, influenza and pneumonia, diabetes and kidney disease, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health.



PERCENTAGE OF POPULATION WITHOUT ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE WHEN NEEDED

Peoria Tri-County Area, 2019

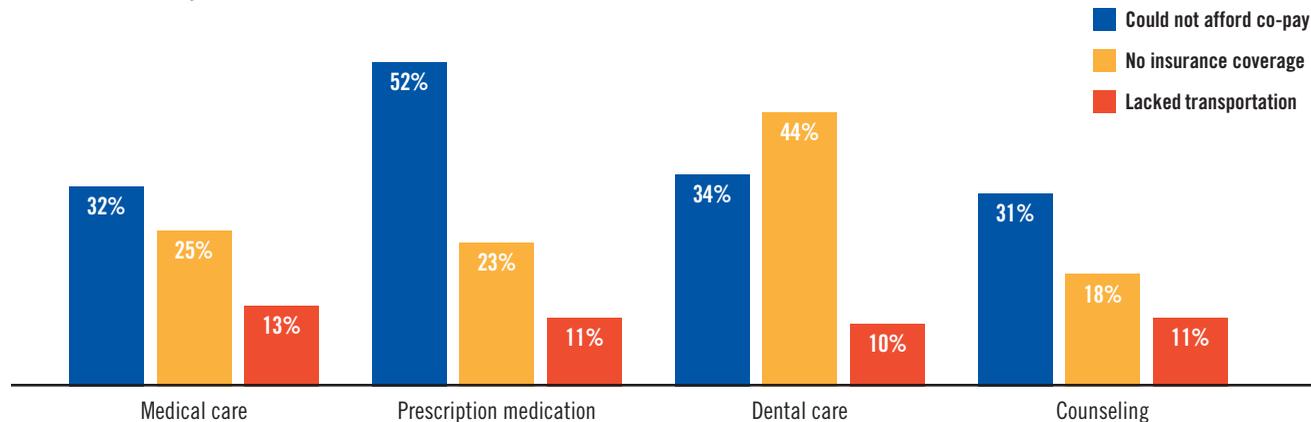


Community Health Needs Assessment Survey, 2019

Access to health care tends to be higher for white people, those with higher education, those with higher income, and those with a stable housing environment.

CAUSES OF INABILITY TO ACCESS HEALTH CARE WHEN NEEDED

Peoria Tri-County Area, 2019



Community Health Needs Assessment Survey, 2019

More than half of survey respondents who lack access to prescription medication could not afford the co-pay, while 44% of those who lack of access to dental care did not have health insurance coverage. In addition, 30% of respondents cited “too long of a wait” for their inability to access medical care, while 27% cited “embarrassment” for their inability to access counseling.

“UNEXPECTED CIRCUMSTANCES, SUCH AS A HEALTH ISSUE, CAN CAUSE SIGNIFICANT STRESS WHEN PEOPLE DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE.”



HEALTH

Routine medical exams and preventative measures such as immunizations are critical to identifying and treating health concerns before they become more serious and costly.

BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTORS

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is a program of the Illinois Department of Public Health that gathers information on risk factors among Illinois residents ages 18 and older through monthly telephone surveys. In the Peoria Tri-County area:

- The percentage of individuals who were overweight or obese was slightly less than the state average, while the prevalence of diabetes has slightly decreased.
- While asthma rates have declined over the last decade, the Peoria Tri-County Area continues to have a significantly higher rate (13.9%) compared to the State of Illinois (8.2%).
- The percentage of people who have had flu shots (40.5%) in the Peoria Tri-County Area was higher than the state average (37.5%), while the percentage of people who have had pneumonia shots in the Peoria Tri-County area (36.2%) was lower than the state average (38.1%).

BEHAVIORAL RISK FACTORS, ADULT POPULATION

Peoria Tri-County Area, 2015-2019



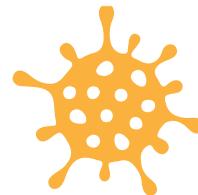
64.7% are overweight or obese



7.1% have diabetes



13.9% have asthma



59.5% have not had an influenza vaccination in the past year

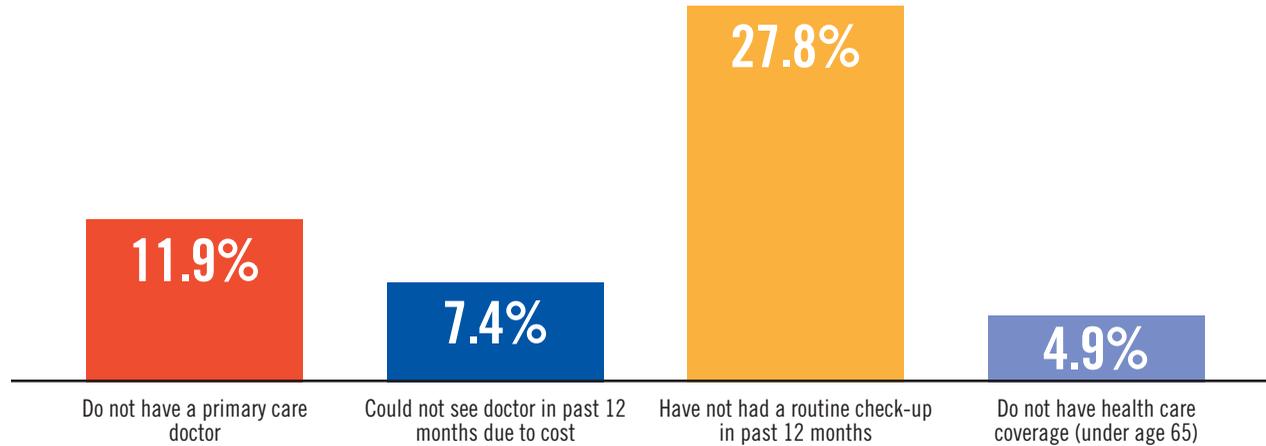


63.8% have never had a pneumonia vaccination

IDPH Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2019

PERCENTAGE OF ADULT POPULATION WITH LIMITED HEALTH CARE ACCESS

Peoria Tri-County Area, 2015-2019



IDPH Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2019

Routine medical exams are critical to identifying and treating health concerns before they become more serious and costly. People who are uninsured or underinsured are less likely to access preventative care and more likely to go without early treatment—exacerbating symptoms and leading to missed work or school.

Nearly 5% of the population in the Tri-County Area is still uninsured despite the Affordable Care Act. When asked, 27.8% of adults 18 and older said they had not had a routine checkup in the past 12 months, 12% indicated they do not have a primary care doctor, and 7.4% did not see a doctor in the past year due to cost.

“NEARLY 5% OF THE POPULATION IN THE PEORIA TRI-COUNTY AREA IS STILL UNINSURED DESPITE THE AFFORDABLE CARE ACT.”



DENTAL VISITS

Oral health is also integral to overall health. In the Peoria Tri-County Area, 71.6% of population visited a dentist within the last year—higher than the state average (65.5%). The percentage of population who have not visited a dentist in more than two years is significant in both the Peoria Tri-County Area (18.5%) as well as the State of Illinois (20.9%).



HEALTH

Preventative health education can contribute to reducing STIs, teen births and youth substance abuse by teaching critical life skills that improve nutrition, increase exercise, reduce substance abuse, lower stress and lessen risky behaviors.

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

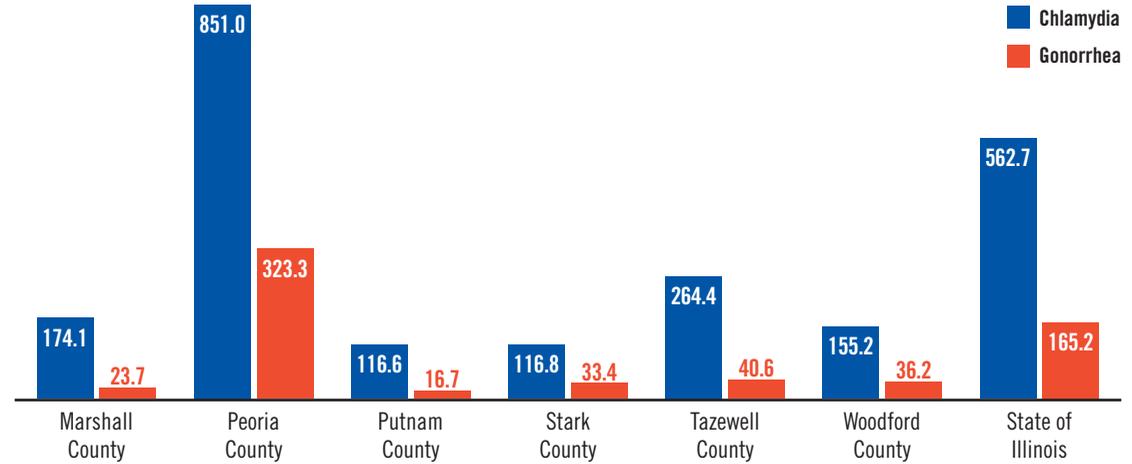
STIs continue to be a significant problem in the Peoria Six-County Region—especially in Peoria County, where rates for both gonorrhea and chlamydia rates have increased. Both rates are significantly higher than the state average.

TEEN BIRTH RATES

While the overall trend in both the Peoria Six-County Region and the State of Illinois declined from 2016 to 2018, Peoria, Putnam and Tazewell counties had a higher rate than the State of Illinois.

STI RATES PER 100,000 POPULATION

Peoria Six-County Region vs. State of Illinois, 2016

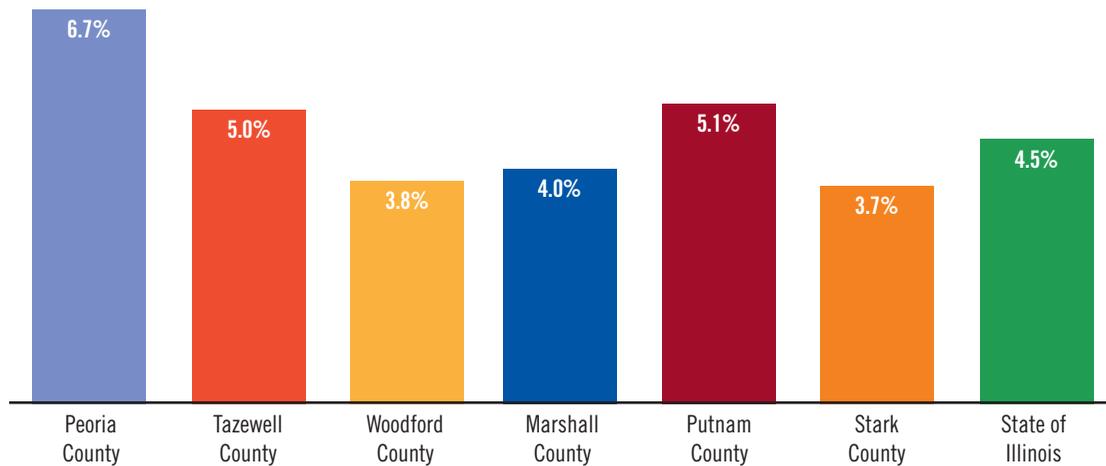


IDPH STD Illinois By County Rank, 2016

Although chlamydia and gonorrhea rates fluctuate slightly in the region, both rates increased in 2016 and continue to be significantly higher than the state average year after year.

TEEN BIRTH RATES

Peoria Six-County Region vs. State of Illinois, 2018

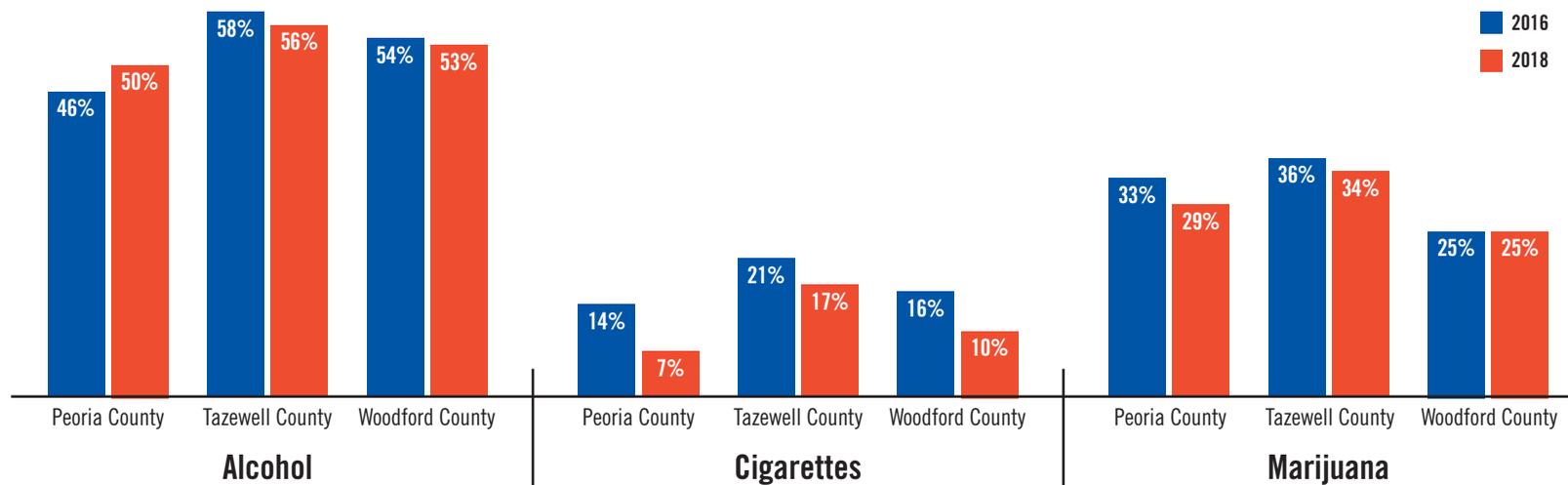


IDPH Detailed Birth Statistics, Illinois Teen Births by County, 2018

While overall teen birth rates remained relatively flat compared to 2014, the 6.7% rate in Peoria County is down from 8.4% in 2014.

TEEN SUBSTANCE USE, 12TH GRADE STUDENTS

Peoria Tri-County Area, 2016 vs. 2018



Illinois Youth Survey 2016 and 2018

In many cases, substance use in the Peoria Tri-County Area is higher than the state average. While alcohol use rose slightly in Peoria County between 2016 and 2018, all other instances of substance use remained flat or declined slightly. Marijuana use is likely to increase in the future due to its legalization in 2019.



THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUTH SUBSTANCE ABUSE INCLUDE LOWER GRADES, SCHOOL ABSENTEEISM, MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS, AND AN INCREASED RISK OF DEATH THROUGH SUICIDE, HOMICIDE, ACCIDENT OR ILLNESS.



Substance use rises from middle school to high school as students get older and their perceptions of associated risk diminish. Tobacco use is perceived by youth as having a higher risk than marijuana use, as reflected in the higher reported percentages (despite slight decreases between 2016 and 2018).

HEALTH

Living with disabilities significantly impacts the degree of self-sufficiency among individuals. With changing demographics due to the aging of baby boomers, communities will experience an increase in the number of elderly individuals living with disabilities.

INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Ambulatory, independent living and cognitive difficulties are the most limiting disabilities for individuals between ages 18 and 64 in the Peoria MSA, while a significant number of individuals experience hearing, self-care and vision difficulty. These disabilities are very likely to limit financial independence and employment.

DISABILITIES BY TYPE

Peoria MSA, 2017

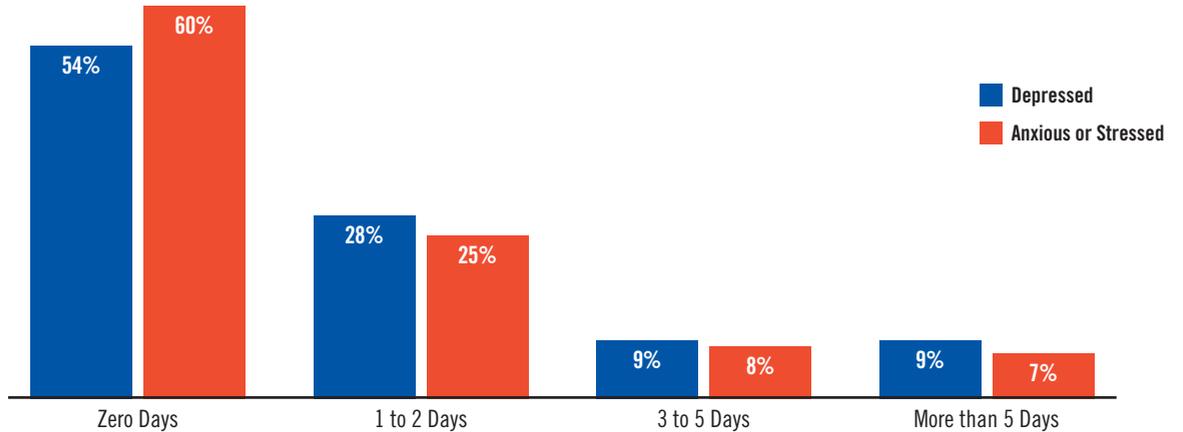
Ambulatory difficulty	21,787
Independent living difficulty	16,039
Cognitive difficulty	15,112
Hearing difficulty	12,131
Self-care difficulty	8,175
Vision difficulty	6,470

U.S. Census Bureau 2017 American Community Survey

DEPRESSION & ANXIETY/STRESS RATES

Peoria Tri-County Area, 2019

The CHNA survey asked Tri-County residents how often they felt depressed, anxious or stressed in the last 30 days.



Community Health Needs Assessment Survey, 2019

Overall, 46% of survey respondents felt depressed and 40% felt anxious or stressed for at least one day out of the month. Depression tends to be rated higher for those with less education, those with less income, Peoria County residents, and those in an unstable housing environment. Stress and anxiety tends to be rated higher for younger people, those with less education, those with less income, and those in an unstable housing environment.



WORKFORCE READINESS

An economically stable community is dependent upon having a resilient, equitable workforce with the skills to meet employer needs while earning sustainable, living wages. By working collaboratively with businesses, government, educational institutions and nonprofit organizations, communities can collectively address this challenge.

Schools, employers and local governments must significantly reduce or remove existing barriers to workforce readiness. The first step is to collaborate with their community's existing health and human care programs. A resilient workforce starts with:

- Quality education programs that are essential to earning a livable wage.
- Financial stability programs that lead to increased independence while moving individuals and families out of poverty.
- Accessible healthcare programs that promote workers' social-emotional and physical health needs.



WORKFORCE READINESS

As the local economy continues to shift from manufacturing to professional and service jobs, community-wide workforce development must adapt to sustain and grow the regional economy while meeting employer needs.

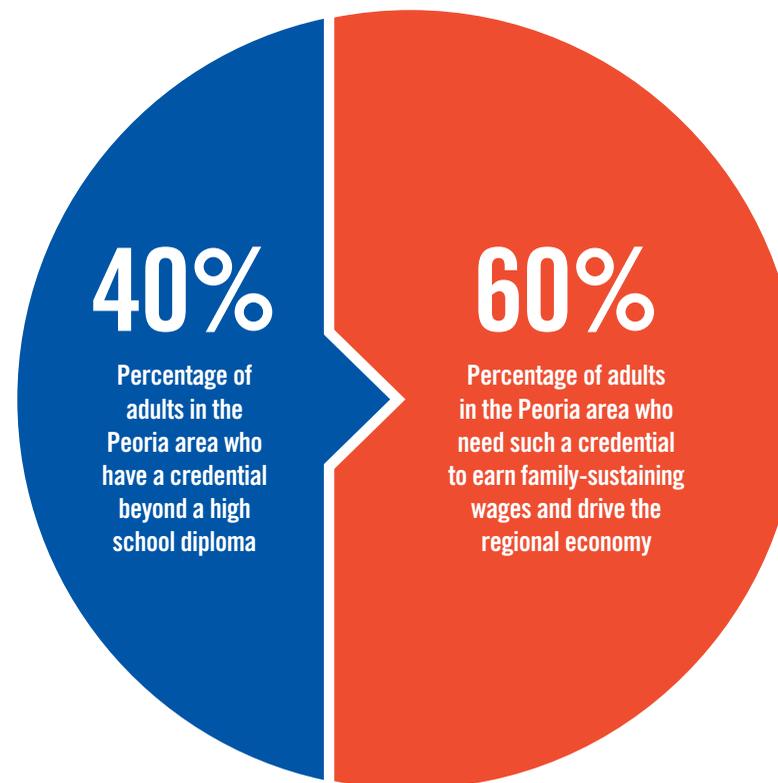
AROUND THE BIG TABLE

The Big Table, a daylong regional community building event held in October 2019, was a platform for community members to exchange ideas, discuss common challenges, and share ideas focused on four major areas: workforce development, diversity & inclusion, innovation & entrepreneurship, and quality of life & place. More than 700 participants prioritized the need to improve workforce development opportunities across the Peoria Region. Common views included:

- Schools must provide more career guidance, job readiness, basic life skills and career-centered training, including soft skills. We should embrace multiple opportunities for post-secondary advancement—not just four-year college degrees.
- Companies should provide more paid internships, apprenticeships, job shadowing opportunities, career coaching and mentorships, as well as financial support for their employees to pursue additional education.
- The community needs to support nonprofit organizations' efforts to invest in early childhood education, afterschool and tutoring programs, GED programs, affordable childcare, and other programs that enhance workforce readiness.

COLLABORATING ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The benefits of investing in workforce readiness are multi-faceted as populations and organizations are part of an interconnected system that ensures the community has a pool of well-trained employees who earn sustainable wages. Regional employers cite the ability to hire qualified employees as one of their biggest challenges. Health and human care programs, representing a continuum of services from early childhood through adulthood, play a vital role in workforce readiness.



REGIONAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

To address the region's workforce needs, the CEO Council, Greater Peoria Economic Development Council, Illinois Central College, and multiple business, government and nonprofit organizations formed the Regional Workforce Development Alliance.

***Working Goal:** Create the regional workforce required to stabilize and grow our economy by systemically connecting employers, educators and community-based organizations with high school graduates, the under-credentialed and multi-barriered adults to ensure 60% of the Peoria area population earns the required certifications to obtain gainful employment.*

The Alliance focuses on three main strategic areas:

- Supporting the emerging workforce
- Removing multiple barriers to workforce readiness
- Increasing credentials of adult workers to address workforce gaps

COMMON BARRIERS TO WORKFORCE READINESS

The first step schools, employers and local governments can take to significantly reduce or remove barriers to workforce readiness is to collaborate with their community's existing health and human care programs. Workforce readiness barriers typically include:

- Education, training and skill-based barriers
- Social and family/home life barriers
- Employment and experience barriers
- Transportation and housing barriers
- Health and human care program barriers
- Race, ethnicity and gender inequality barriers

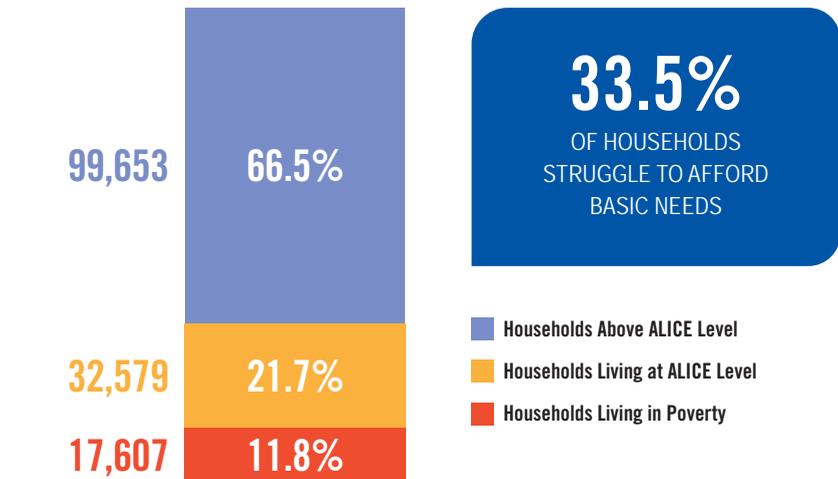
POPULATIONS MOST AFFECTED BY WORKFORCE READINESS BARRIERS

Many of the populations served by social services have difficulty finding work because they have lower levels of educational attainment, lack occupational or soft skills, and face other home or family life barriers. Investing in early childhood education, after-school programs, tutoring and mentoring programs, life-skills education, GED programs, affordable childcare for working families, and much more can help build this potential human resource. Populations most affected by workforce readiness barriers include:

- Adults with a high school diploma/equivalent or less
- People living in poverty
- Low-income, at-risk youth moving into adulthood
- Young adults previously in foster care
- Women with preschool or younger children
- Racial/ethnic minorities
- People with poor physical health, disabilities or mental health issues
- Persons transitioning from substance abuse treatment, homelessness or incarceration
- People living in sparsely populated areas
- People who are unemployed or underemployed due to workplace closings and layoffs
- Foreign-born individuals
- Veterans moving from military to civilian jobs

HOUSEHOLDS STRUGGLING TO MAKE ENDS MEET

Peoria Six-County Region, 2017



American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau, 2017, compiled by United for ALICE™ on behalf of United Way of Illinois

Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed (ALICE) households and poverty-level households combined represent 33.5% of total households in the region that are struggling to afford basic needs. These households face a wide range of challenges:

- Lower-wage jobs
- Higher proportion of earnings needed to cover transportation and housing costs
- Few or no assets to cushion the impact of unexpected health emergencies or caregiving needs
- Limited opportunities for their children

By addressing workforce readiness barriers within ALICE and poverty-level households, health and human care agencies can help individuals and families get through a crisis, avoid homelessness, assist with financial literacy, and improve access to education.

WORKFORCE READINESS

Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses offer education and advanced training beyond high school—including work-based learning, mentorships and industry certifications—to support high-wage, high-skill and in-demand occupations. Sources for CTE credentials include community colleges, trade or technical schools, union apprenticeships, industry organizations or associations, the military, and social service and nonprofit agencies.

BRIDGING THE GAP

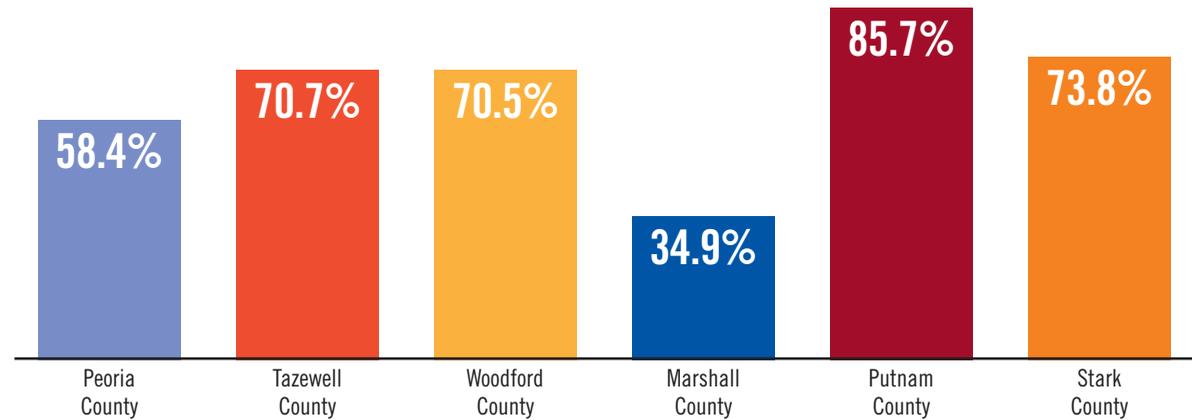
Community colleges are well positioned to bridge the gap between regional employment needs and the development of a strong workforce. In 2018, more than 60% of all Illinois community college graduates earned a CTE degree or certificate.

REMEDIAL COURSEWORK

One of the major barriers to post-secondary students achieving success is the need to take remedial coursework in the core subject areas of reading, math and science. Students who need remedial classes are less likely to complete their education and spend more on classes that do not contribute to a degree or credential. Looking at 2017 high school graduates from the Peoria Region who enrolled in a community college, 12 out of 27 local high schools had more than 33% of their graduates enrolled in remedial coursework, particularly math.

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ENROLLMENT IN CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Peoria Six-County Region, 2018-2019

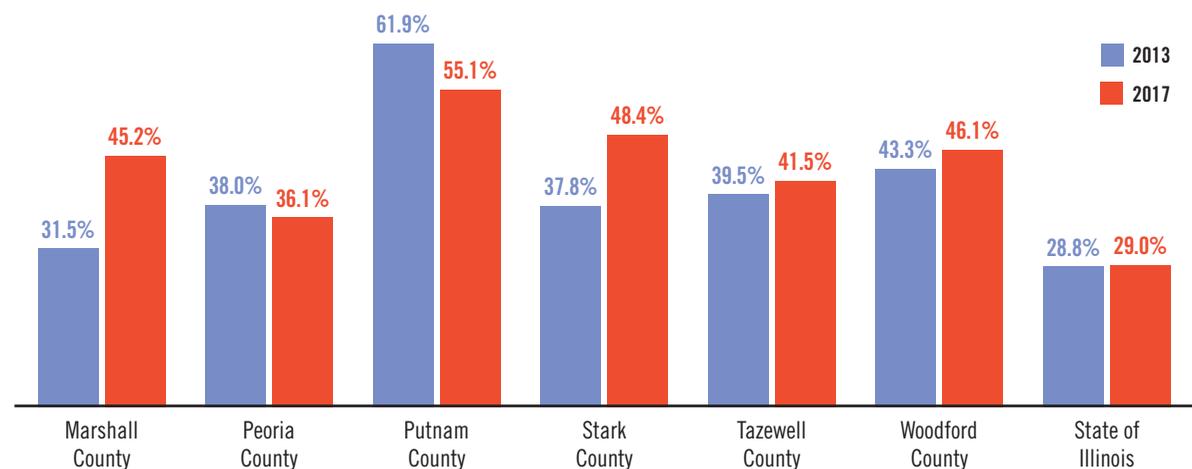


Illinois State Board of Education, School Year 2018-2019 District Report Card Summary

In Illinois, middle and high school students who take specialized career and technical education courses are more likely to graduate from high school. Roughly two-thirds of these students enroll in postsecondary education after graduation.

HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES ENROLLED IN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Peoria Six-County Region vs. State of Illinois, 2013 vs. 2017

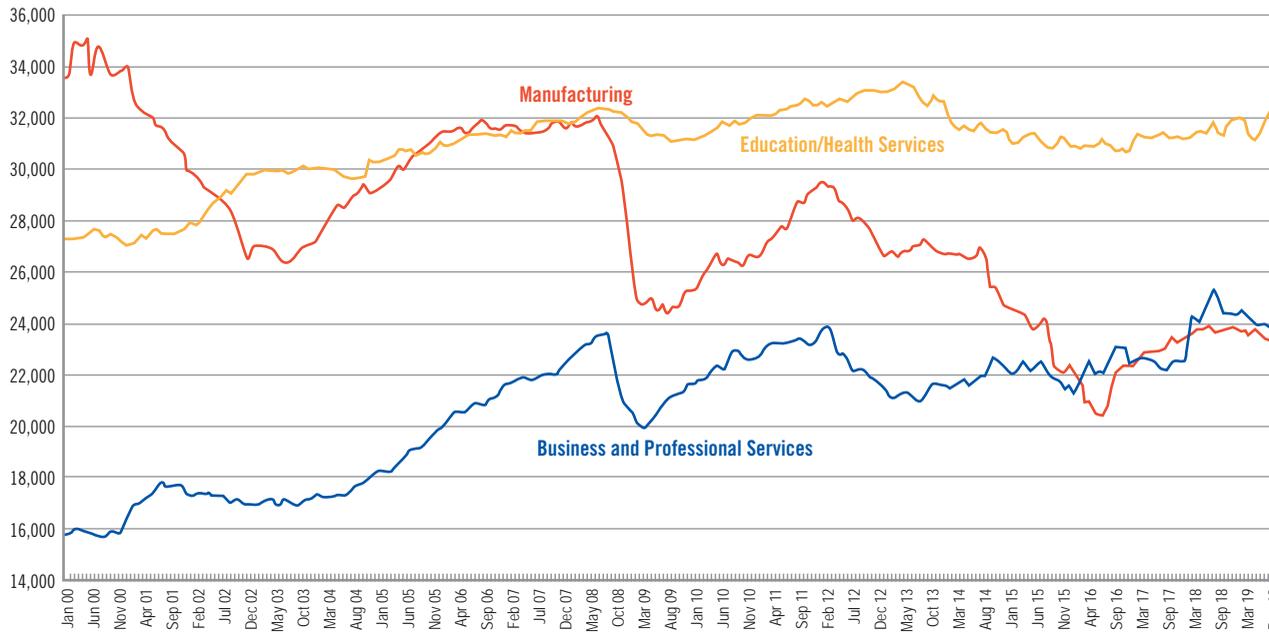


Illinois State Board of Education, School Year 2018-2019 District Report Card Summary

High school graduates from the Six-County Peoria Region enrolled in Illinois community colleges at higher rates than the state average.

HISTORICAL EMPLOYMENT TRENDS BY INDUSTRY

Peoria MSA, 2019



4th Quarter 2019 Business and Economic Indicators, Peoria-Pekin MSA, Foster College of Business at Bradley University

As the regional economy transforms into a service-based economy, the long-term decline of manufacturing jobs continues. Employment in business and professional services (including jobs at accounting and law firms, marketing and computer consulting services, and other service-based firms) has steadily increased, while employment in healthcare services has generally increased, but at a lower rate.

A MORE EDUCATED WORKFORCE

The shift toward a more educated workforce does not necessarily mean that all positions offering a livable wage require an undergraduate diploma. Helping students understand the variety of higher-skilled jobs offering higher wages can lead to increased enrollment across the entire continuum of postsecondary learning.

When focusing on workforce readiness and the needs of local employers, preparing students for postsecondary education needs to include career-focused learning that integrates academic and career instruction. This starts with increasing opportunities for students to explore various career paths at a younger age, building soft skills throughout K-12 education, starting career and technical education as early as middle school, and entering postsecondary education and certification programs with the necessary reading, math and communication skills.

FORECASTED IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The COVID-19 crisis has not only affected the economy through employment and revenue loss, it has highlighted the need to address employer and employee needs such as:

- Increasing employee access to safety net assistance (health care, food, housing, utilities, child care, etc.)
- Providing re-training for displaced workers
- Assisting small and mid-sized businesses to adapt to new technologies
- Improving employee access to the internet and technologies needed to work remotely
- Addressing trained employee shortages in industries that respond to crises (health care, logistics, manufacturing, etc.)
- Supporting certification and apprenticeship programs that could create new jobs coming out of the pandemic



MAKE AN IMPACT

The Heart of Illinois United Way invests in programs and initiatives addressing the most critical education, financial stability and health needs of central Illinois. Through evaluation and collaboration, we ensure charitable investments in our grant process make the most significant, positive impact on the community.



FOLLOW YOUR HEART

Whether it's a child learning to read, a senior living independently, or a family making healthy choices, your decision to give changes lives.

TRUST THE EXPERTS

Heart of Illinois United Way volunteers evaluate local, critical human care needs to ensure your charitable investment earns the greatest return.

INVEST IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Make a charitable gift to the Heart of Illinois United Way's Community Impact Fund to improve the education, financial stability, and health of people in central Illinois.



FUNDS STAY IN CENTRAL ILLINOIS



OUTCOMES SET AND MEASURED



COMMUNITY MEMBERS MAKE DECISIONS



ONGOING EVALUATION



RELIABLE AND SUSTAINABLE