

2006 Fact Sheet

Profiles of Families with Children Enrolled
in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start

Volume 2, Number 2
2006
North Dakota Head Start

North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start Family Profiles Highlights

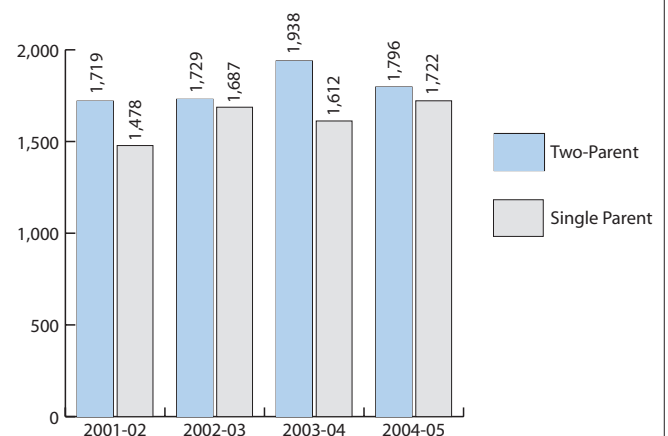
- About half of all Head Start families are two-parent households
- Most Head Start parents are employed
- Most Head Start families have parents with high school education & beyond
- Most Head Start families obtain parenting and health services
- Almost one-third of enrolled children have fathers involved in Head Start activities



About Half of All Head Start Families are Two-Parent Households

Since 2001, when data were first collected on types of families with children enrolled in North Dakota Head Start, two-parent households have comprised slightly more than half of all families with children enrolled in Head Start. In 2004-5, 51.1% of North Dakota Head Start families were headed by two parents. In contrast, according to the 2000 Census, married couples constituted 77.5% of all families with their own children younger than age 6 in North Dakota, while single parents comprised the remaining 22.5%.

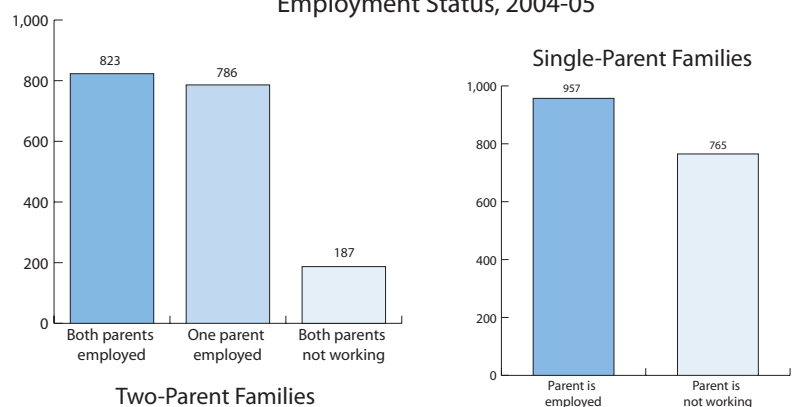
Figure 1. Families with Children Enrolled in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start by Family Type, 2001-2005



Most Head Start Parents are Employed

Most parents who have children in North Dakota Head Start programs are employed, whether in single-parent or two-parent households. These families are part of the "working poor" in our state. In 2004-05, both parents were employed in 45.8% of two-parent homes and an additional 43.8% had one parent employed. In 10.4% of two-parent Head Start families, both parents were not working due to either unemployment, retirement, or disability. In contrast, 55.6% of single parents with children in Head Start programs were employed and 44.4% were not working.

Figure 2. Families with Children Enrolled in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start by Family Type and Parental Employment Status, 2004-05



Data Source and Note:
Data obtained from Head Start Program Information Reports, 2000-2005. In this fact sheet, guardians are included in data on parents.

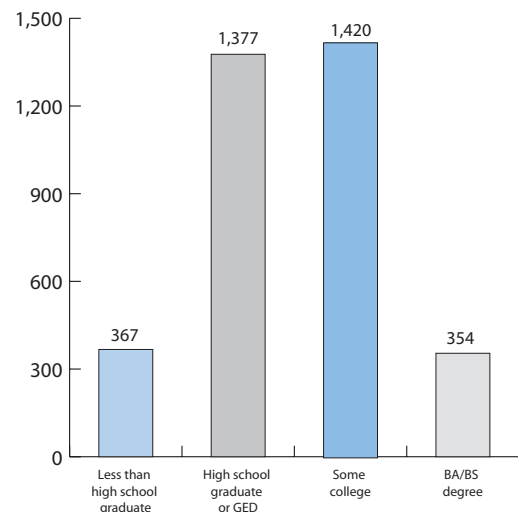
Our Mission

The goal of Head Start is to increase the social competence of children in low-income families and children with disabilities, and to improve their chances for school success.

Most Head Start Families Have Parents with High School Education and Beyond

Many families who have children enrolled in North Dakota Head Start programs have parents who have achieved an education beyond high school. In 40.4% of families, the highest level of parental education was some college or an associate degree in 2004-05, and in 10.1% of families the highest level attained was a bachelor's or advanced degree. In 39.1% of families, the highest level attained was a high school diploma or GED. In 10.4% of families, parents had completed less than a high school education.

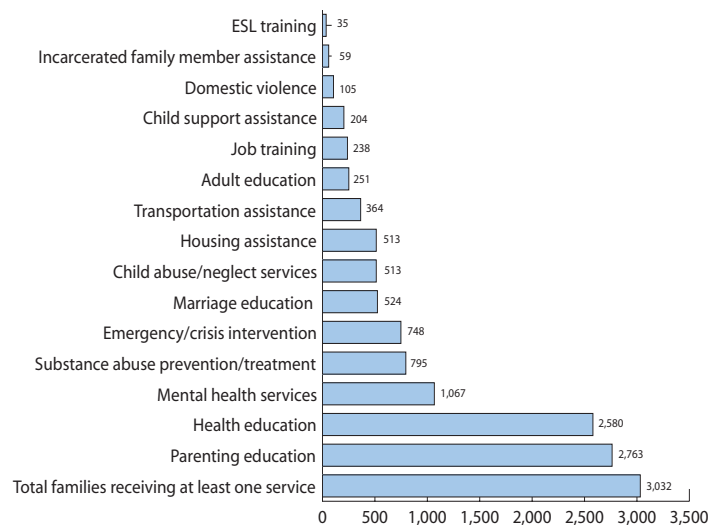
Figure 3. Families with Children Enrolled in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start by Highest Education Level of Parent(s), 2004-05



Most Head Start Families Obtain Parenting and Health Services

Families with children enrolled in North Dakota Head Start programs often deal with numerous personal and familial issues which require assistance or services, such as emergency help or mental health services. The majority of Head Start families received health (including prenatal) education (73.3%) and benefited from parenting education services (78.5%). The vast majority of all North Dakota Head Start families (86.2%) obtained services during 2004-05.

Figure 4. Families with Children Enrolled in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start by Type of Service Received, 2004-05



Almost One-Third of Enrolled Children Have Fathers Involved in Head Start Activities

From 2001-02 (when North Dakota Head Start Programs began recording father involvement) until 2003-04, there was a growth in the number of fathers or father figures participating in organized and regularly scheduled activities designed to involve fathers in Head Start programs. From 2002 to 2004, 95% of Head Start Programs offered these activities. By 2004-05, fewer (85.7%) of the state's 21 Head Start programs organized these activities. Thirty percent of Head Start children had fathers/father figures who participated in these programs in 2004-05.

Figure 5. Children Enrolled in North Dakota Head Start and Early Head Start Whose Fathers/Father Figures Participated in Activities, 2001-2005

