

Human Services Gaps

Children and Youth

- In 2008, 4,208 preschoolers were not enrolled in quality early education centers.
- At least 40 percent of child care programs in Duval County need additional support in order to provide high quality early learning opportunities.
- Annual job turnover in Duval County's child care workforce is between 30 and 40 percent.
- In 2006, of the approximately 9,000 kindergarteners screened for readiness, 36 percent, or 3,240 were not ready, according to initial sound recognition results on DIBELS.
- 81% of low-income students in elementary and middle schools are not participating in after school programs with academic enrichment.
- 40,000 students in Jacksonville's public schools could benefit from a mentor.
- Currently, there are 1,232 mentor matches in Jacksonville.
- An estimated 3,800 youth ages 12-17 are homeless.
- The National Association of School Psychologists recommends a ratio of 1 school psychologist for every 1,000 students.
- The ratio in Duval County Public Schools (DCPS) is 1:2,550.
- The American School Counseling Association recommends 1 guidance counselor to every 250 students.
- In DCPS high schools the ratio is 1:451.
- There were 3,468 student code of conduct violations in 2006-07 in DCPS.
- In February 2008, an estimated 111 families were waiting for therapeutic help from Full Service Schools of Jacksonville.
- Their students will wait approximately 5-6 months for an appointment with a therapist.
- 13,789 children living in families eligible for Florida's health insurance plan remain uninsured.
- In 2005-06, one-quarter of all DCPS middle school students were served an in-school suspension.
- In the same year, one-third of all DCPS middle school students were served an out-of-school suspension.

Emergency Needs

- 2,580 persons are homeless on any given day.
- During the 2007-08 school year, 1,098 Duval County Public School students were homeless.
- 16,326 calls were made to United Way's 211 for emergency assistance in 2006-07.
- The most frequent call is for help with water and electricity bills.
- In March 2008, 34 percent of 211 callers did not receive assistance from the agency they were referred to.

- Of those who did not receive assistance, 87 percent said requests for assistance overwhelmed agency telephone lines and they got a busy signal.
- In 2007, JEA cut off electricity to 122,000 residences and small businesses due to nonpayment.

Violence

- An estimated 141,000 people were victims of domestic violence in 2006.
- Jacksonville served 10,000 survivors of domestic violence in 2006.
- Jacksonville University conducted face-to-face interviews with domestic violence victims in 2007 and found that 30% had children present at the time of the most recent incident of abuse.
- During those incidents of domestic violence that were reported to the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office in 2007, 948 juveniles were present.
- In 2006-07, Hubbard House, the largest domestic violence shelter in Jacksonville, served 356 children.
- In a 2007 survey conducted by Jacksonville University, 10% of respondents stated that at least one adult relative in their family had been a victim of domestic violence within the past year.
- In the same survey, 74% of respondents who knew of a victim of domestic violence said that counseling was needed.
- In the same survey, 48% of respondents said that victims of domestic violence had actually received counseling services.

Adults and Seniors

- 100,000 residents do not have health insurance.
- On March 26, 2008, 422 seniors were on a waiting list for Meals-on-Wheels.

Parenting

- 3,101 persons aged 60 and over were responsible for their grandchildren in 2006.

Financial Stability

- 70,530 persons received Food Stamps in 2007.
- 4,791 persons received Temporary Aid to Needy Families assistance, also known as welfare.
- In the current fiscal year, Family Foundations, a local agency nonprofit credit counseling agency, has seen a 50 percent increase in the number of inquiries about financial counseling as compared to the previous fiscal year.

Mental Health and Substance Abuse

- Half of homeless persons have recently experienced mental health problems.
- 62,000 people in Jacksonville suffer from severe mental illness.
- The mental health system in Jacksonville served less than 20 percent of the population of severely mentally ill, or 12,400.
- Public funding provides assistance to 11,000 persons with severe mental illness.
- The largest provider of mental health services for low-income children in Jacksonville cut its services by 34% since 2006 due to Medicaid reform.
- Each February, state funding for uninsured children is depleted, and no new children are served until July when the new fiscal year begins.
- The only publicly-funded detoxification program in Jacksonville turns away 400 requests for treatment each year.
- If a low-income alcoholic or addict who is not HIV positive or pregnant calls for inpatient treatment in Jacksonville, he or she will wait 6 weeks to 2 months.

Living with Disabilities

- In Northeast Florida, 1,075 persons living with mental retardation, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, autism, or Prader-Willi syndrome are eligible for services from the State of Florida and remain on a waiting list because funds for services are insufficient.
- In 2007, there were approximately 13,000 4 year-olds in Duval County, and of those, approximately 1,300 have a learning disability.
- In 2007, Nemours BrightStart! screened approximately 3,800 4 year-olds for language difficulties.

The Human Services Council in Jacksonville
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