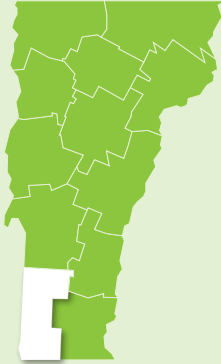


Bennington Region

About the Region



There are 2,133 children under the age of six in Bennington County, with 52% living below 200% of the federal poverty line. Both supervisory unions in the region have a higher percentage of children who qualify for free and reduced lunch than the state average. The region has a high STARs participation rate, however, there continues to be a lack of child care slots for families. Lack of transportation and affordable housing are also issues.

Successes

- Trainings on the Vermont Early Learning Standards: More than 40 providers at both the introductory and secondary levels.
- Two citizen-led Promise Communities.
- 95 people trained in the ARC model (Attachment Regulation Competency).
- Two out of three Supervisory Unions improved their Kindergarten Readiness Scores.

Current Status

CHILD POPULATION

under age 9

2015:
3,251 Children
2011:
3,393 Children

DECLINED

-4.4%

STARS PARTICIPATION

2017*:
65 Programs
2010*:
29 Programs

IMPROVED TO
86.7%

IMMUNIZATION RATES

ages 19-35 months

2016:
409 Children
2013:
330 Children

IMPROVED TO
74.6%

CHILDREN IN DCF CUSTODY

under age 9

2015:
52 Children
2012:
24 Children

INCREASED TO
16.0
RATE PER 1000

Strategies for 2017-18

One of the core principles for the success of each strategy is to weave in professional development. Professional development gives the region a common language and expectations for success. Bennington's outcomes are long term and are overseen by committees.

- Use of the Devereux Early Childhood Assessment to track children's social emotional growth.
- Increasing the number of children who are ready for school in five developmental areas.
- Professional development on the impact of drug and alcohol use during pregnancy, targeting child care providers.

Percent of All Students Ready for Kindergarten 2015-2016 & 2016-2017 School Years

Supervisory Union (SU) /District (SD)	2015 - 2016	2016-2017
Battenkill Valley SU	95.7%	70.0%
Bennington Rutland SU	87.5%	91.7%
Southwest Vermont SU	68.2%	73.0%

*As of June for each year