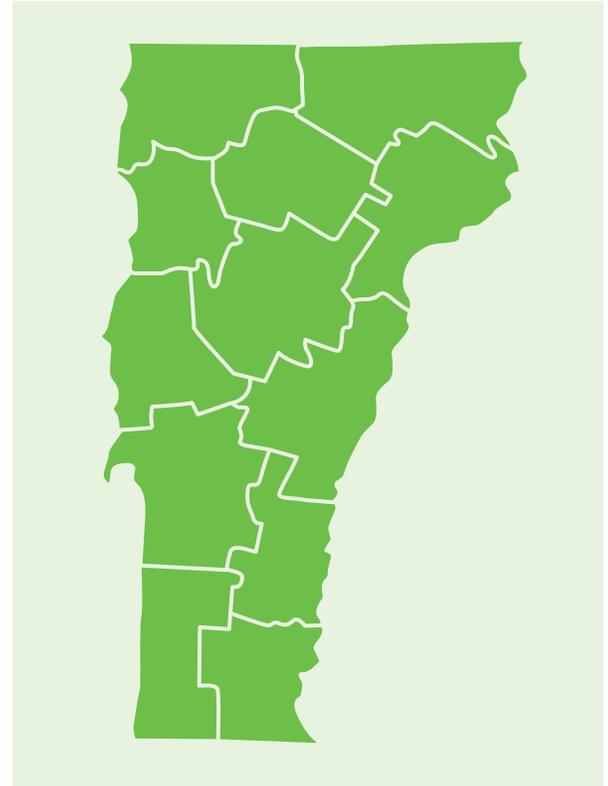


Introduction to Regional Profiles

The following regional profiles offer a snapshot of selected indicators of child and family well-being for each of Vermont's 12 regions, which line up with the Agency of Human Services Districts. Each indicator represents the most high-quality, up-to-date data that is available at the regional level and includes the same data from five years prior for comparison.

Each profile includes a highlight of a Regional Council success as well as five key data points: 1. The estimated population of children under 10, 2. The percentage of children under 12 living in households with incomes below 185% of the Federal Poverty Level (the benchmark for many benefit programs), 3. The number of children under 9 living in out-of-home custody, 4. The percentage of children ready for kindergarten, and 5. The percentage of third grade children reading at or above "proficient."



Current Status of All Vermont Children

CHILD POPULATION¹ (2021)

60,364 children under 10

Decreased from 62,535 in 2016

CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY^{2*} (2020)

30.4% children under 12 (22,125)

Decreased from 35.1% in 2015 (26,732)

CHILDREN IN OUT OF HOME CUSTODY³ (2022)

541 children under 9

Decreased from 618 in 2017

**Under 185% of the Federal Poverty Level*

Educational Assessments

VERMONT STUDENTS

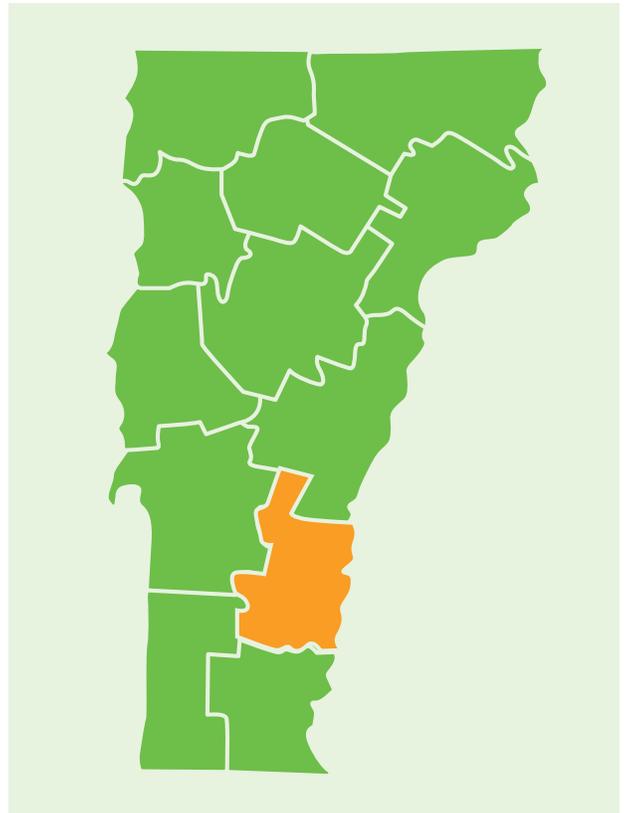
KINDERGARTEN READINESS⁴ (FALL 2021)

3RD GRD READING PROFICIENCY⁵ (SPRING 2021)

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-------|
| All Students | 85% | 42.5% |
| Male | 82% | 39.3% |
| Female | 89% | 45.9% |
| Free and Reduced Lunch Eligible | 74% | 25.4% |
| Not Free and Reduced Lunch Eligible | 91% | 54.2% |
| Attended Publicly Funded PreK | 87% | NA |
| Did Not Attend Publicly Funded PreK | 80% | NA |
| Historically Marginalized | NA | 27.4% |
| Not Historically Marginalized | NA | 59.1% |

Springfield Area

Amid growing concerns about the lack of early childhood education programs in the region, Chrystal Loyer, a Woodstock parent of an almost-3-year-old, shared her experience with the Springfield Area Regional Council. Chrystal also shared stories and data she collected of other families in the area facing similar challenges, including that local families were seeking care for at least 22 children, with no available or affordable child care. The impact on families was significant: some families changed their work schedules to have one parent scale back or completely stop working; some chose to move out of Vermont temporarily; some found child care at an unsustainable cost of as much as \$20,000 a year; some chose to wait to grow a family or decided not to have another child at all. With support from Springfield Area Regional Council members, Chrystal and the other families took their stories to the Windsor Central Supervisory Union school board and local officials. As a result, the school board voted to increase their budget to serve these children by allocating space and adding two pre-K teachers and two paraeducators to expand access to publicly funded pre-K spots.



Current Status

CHILD POPULATION¹ (2021)

3,103 children under 10

Decreased from 3,223 in 2016

CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY^{2*} (2020)

38.8% children under 12 (1,375)

Decreased from 48.1% in 2015 (2,107)

CHILDREN IN OUT OF HOME CUSTODY³ (2022)

26 children under 9

Decreased from 58 in 2017

**Under 185% of the Federal Poverty Level*

Educational Assessments

SUPERVISORY UNION / SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bennington Rutland SU
 Springfield SD
 Two Rivers SU
 Windham Central SU
 Windham Northeast SU
 Windsor Central SU
 Windsor Southeast SU

KINDERGARTEN READINESS⁴ (FALL 2021)

88%
75%
65%
93%
87%
100%
87%

3RD GRD READING PROFICIENCY⁵ (SPRING 2021)

49.1%
30.3%
16.0%
54.5%
27.7%
58.7%
44.9%

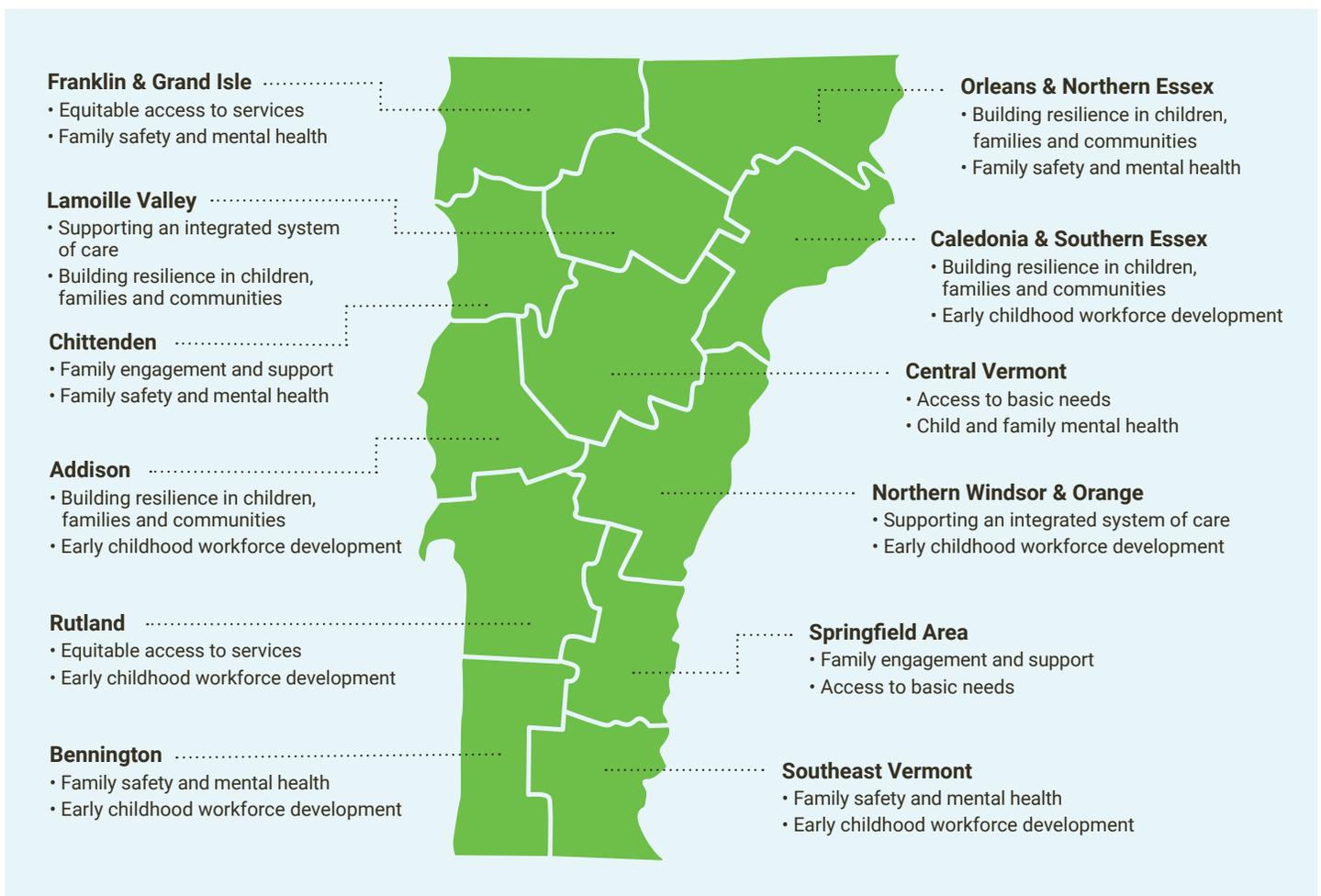
ABOUT REGIONAL COUNCILS

Building Bright Futures' Regional Councils bring together early childhood stakeholders to identify gaps, share expertise and resources, elevate regional and family voices, and implement strategies in each respective region. These strategies include identifying gaps for children and families and aiming to improve access to services and supports across early care, health, and education for young children and families in their communities. Regional Council members are crucial to each stage of this process, both in official convenings of the Regional Councils and within the early childhood system more broadly.

The 12 Regional Councils are mandated to support an integrated system of early care, health, and education at the local level under Vermont Statute Title 33 § Chapter 46. In alignment with, and with support from, the State Advisory Council, Regional Councils are tasked with coordinating and implementing services in accordance with system and regional priorities. Regular Regional Council meetings are just one way that this mandate is fulfilled.

Early childhood stakeholders from across Vermont bring their perspectives together through Regional Councils 8-10 times a year. Participants at regional tables include professionals in physical and mental health, social services, basic needs, early childhood care and education, and preK-12 education; families of children under 9; and community members invested in the well-being of young children.

Annually, each Regional Council sets two regional priorities to guide their work. The map below illustrates the top two priorities of each region, showcasing the similarities and differences among the 12 regions in Vermont.



More information about each region, including Regional Council meetings, can be found at buildingbrightfutures.org/what-we-do/regional-councils/