

**FirstFiveNebraska.org**

301 South 13th Street | Suite 600

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# **Leveraging the Local - *In Nebraska***

*Presentation to*

**The Alliance for Early Success**

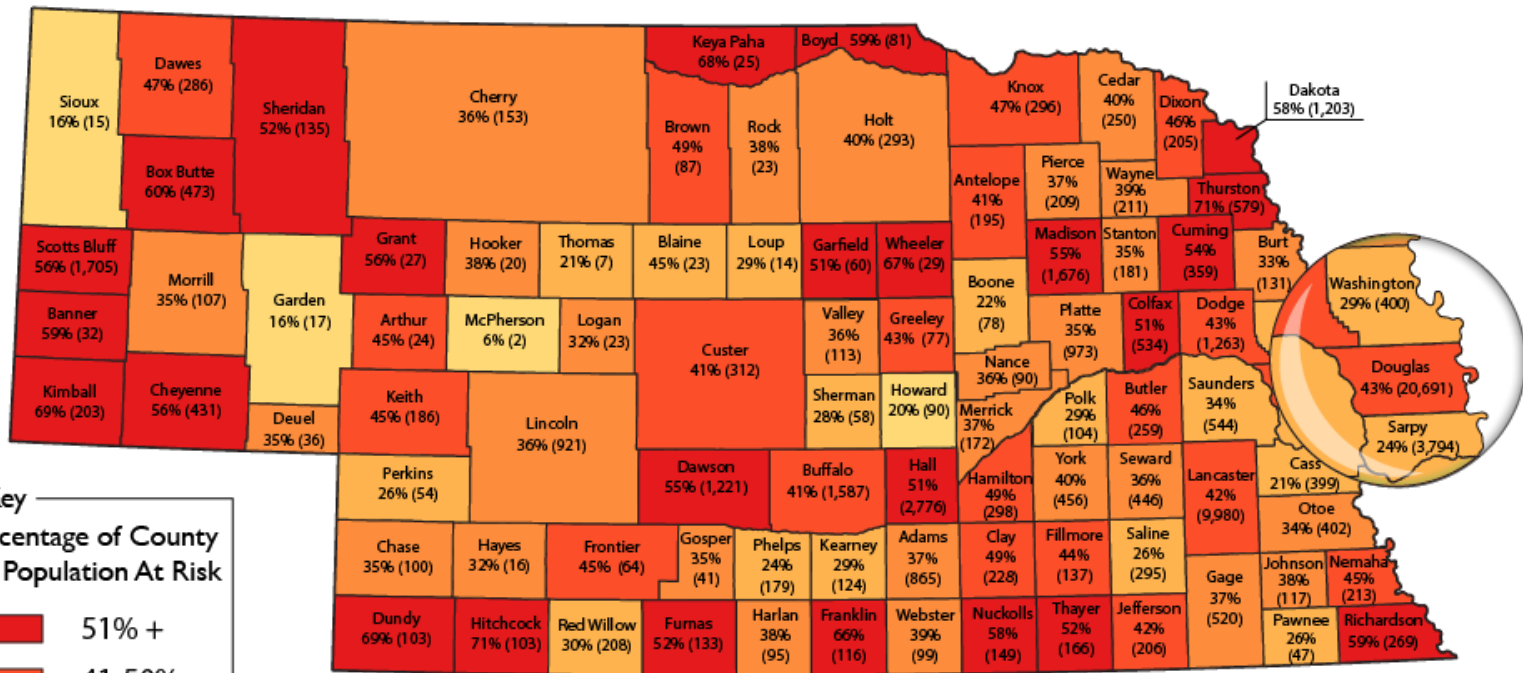
**2017 Partner Summit**

**Tampa, Florida**

**November 8, 2017**



# Children Age 0-5 At Risk of Failing in School: 2011-15



**Key**

**Percentage of County 0-5 Population At Risk**

- 51% +
- 41-50%
- 31-40%
- 21-30%
- 0-20%

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table B17024; generated by First Five Nebraska; using American Factfinder; <<http://factfinder.census.gov>>; (8 December 2016).

<p><b>153,696</b> Number of Children Age 0-5 in Nebraska</p>	<p><b>62,729 (41%)</b> Number and Percentage of Children Age 0-5 in Nebraska At Risk of Failing in School</p>
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# FFN Senator Engagement Handout

(FRONT)

**Our Youngest Nebraskans**  
District 14: Senator Jim Smith

105<sup>th</sup> NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE • FIRST SESSION 2017

**Saving taxpayer dollars through strategic investments in Omaha's youngest children at risk**

In Omaha, the violent crime rate is nearly 25 percent higher than the national average per 1,000 residents. This comes at a catastrophic cost to our city's taxpayers and economy. Considering severe budget shortfalls currently experienced at the city and state level, Nebraskans cannot afford to pay approximately **\$200 million to incarcerate 5,000 adults** in state prisons every year.

If we are serious about making better use of tax revenues in Omaha and across the state, the best research points to a strategy that prioritizes quality early care and learning opportunities for young children at risk.

National corrections data indicates that the vast majority of the incarcerated population exhibits severe disparities in executive function skills. These assets of cognition and behavior govern an individual's ability to focus on tasks, control impulses and emotions and interact appropriately in social contexts. Healthy executive function is built upon quality early experiences, especially with attentive, responsive parents and caregivers.

Absent these kinds of early experiences, however, children are statistically more likely to follow a trajectory that leads toward involvement in the state's correction system and low lifelong productivity.

**District 14's Youngest Children At Risk**

Children Age 0-5*	
District	Statewide
<b>3,379</b>	<b>153,696</b>
Children Age 0-5 At Risk* of School Failure	
District	Statewide
<b>589</b>	<b>62,729</b>
<b>17%</b>	<b>41%</b>

\*U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2010 American Community Survey 5 Year Estimates. Table B17024. Generated by First Five Nebraska using American Factfinder: <a href="https://factfinder.census.gov">https://factfinder.census.gov</a> (8 December 2016).

Customized messaging frame

Quote or testimonial from local or state-level influencer

District-specific program participation & workforce data

District-specific at-risk data

(BACK)

**Gallup CFO: Fiscal accountability begins with strategically timed investments in Nebraska's citizens**

"Clearly, the most efficient, accountable, and highest return on investment occurs in the first five years.

It will [reduce] other demands on our tax dollars such as grade repetition, special education costs, work force training, welfare, and incarceration.

I challenge you to find [an investment] that can produce such a high rate of return for such a relatively modest level of expenditure."

**797**

**Total estimated number of children age 0-5 at risk of failing in school in District 14**

Estimated numbers of children age 0-5 at risk in District 14 who do or do not participate in early childhood programs that currently meet verifiable high-quality standards

<b>Not Participating</b> 65% (522)	<b>Participating</b> 35% (275)
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<p><b>197</b> Children under 18 months at risk of failing in school</p> <p>9% Participate in programs with recognized high-quality standards</p>	<p><b>197</b> Children 18 months to 3 years at risk of failing in school</p> <p>13% Participate in programs with recognized high-quality standards</p>	<p><b>403</b> Children 3 through 5 years at risk of failing in school</p> <p>58% Participate in programs with recognized high-quality standards</p>
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Estimated number of qualified early childhood workforce needed in District 14 to ensure all children age 0-5 at risk of failing in school participate in a setting of verifiable high-quality standards

<b>Qualified Professionals Needed*</b> 74% (91)	<b>Qualified Professionals Currently Working†</b> 26% (32)
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\*Estimated number of new or existing early childhood workers needed to obtain higher qualifications to ensure that all children at risk age 0-5 years can participate in a high-quality program with appropriate staff-to-child ratios.  
†Estimated number of highly-qualified early childhood workers currently serving at-risk children in settings recognized as meeting high-quality standards.

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# Shifting Focus - Creating Demand at the Local Level

- Lack of vision at the state level
  - ▶ *Executive Branch*
    - ▶ *Governor and state agencies*
  - ▶ *Legislative Branch*
    - ▶ *One-issue candidates*
    - ▶ *Tax reform; less government*

# Shifting Focus - Creating Demand at the Local Level

- Private sector investments
  - ▶ *One-year planning grants to build capacity*
  - ▶ *Co-horts of 10 communities*
  - ▶ *Expertise provided based on community need*
  - ▶ *Policy Leadership Academy*
    - ▶ *Building leadership skills to talk with elected officials, media, business, funders*
    - ▶ *10-month program; mentor next co-hort*
  - ▶ *Dividends Nebraska – business leaders involved in early childhood*



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