



THE SUNSHINE PORTAL

Florida's Early Childhood Integrated Data System

Florida School Readiness Households Using Multiple Services

The Early Childhood Policy Research Group (ECPRG)

Phillip R. Sherlock, Ph.D., Herman T. Knopf, Ph.D., Jing Huang, M.S., Maya Schreiber, M.A.



Introduction

The Early Childhood Policy Research Group (ECPRG) at the University of Florida Anita Zucker Center for Excellence in Early Childhood Studies will describe Florida School Readiness (SR) program households' use of multiple public assistance programs as measured by cross-program administrative data. While awaiting all necessary datasets, the research team used information provided by families through the SR application process to report on cross-service use as reflected in reportable income from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Cash Assistance (TCA), and/or the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program.

Data & Methodology

There were two datasets used in the analyses to describe family participation in multiple public assistance programs. The DEL School Readiness Payment File for FY19/20 and 20/21, which reports monthly enrollment in the SR program, was linked to the DEL Household Income File, which measures family self-reported enrollment in SNAP, TCA, and HCV. Each household was re-coded to a binary code (0-not enrolled; 1-enrolled) to measure participation in one of the identified programs. These codes were then summarized at the state and coalition levels.

Results

A large majority of SR households (72%) in FYs 2019-2021 did not report enrollment in SNAP, TCA, and/or HCV at the time of their SR application. Among the approximately 30% of households who reported enrollment in another public assistance program, 27% indicated participation in SNAP. Very few households who applied for SR services self-reported enrollment in more than one additional service. The most common combination, however, is the use of both SNAP and TCA (3%).

Table 1. SR Households Enrolled in Multiple Public Assistance Programs, Statewide

Program	# Households (%)
SR Application Only	124,675 (72%)
SNAP	40,819 (24%)
TCA	1,705 (1%)
HCV	82 (<1%)
SNAP, TCA	5,635 (3%)
SNAP, HCV	273 (<1%)
TCA, HCV	4(<1%)
SNAP, TCA & HCV	36 (<1%)
Total	173,229

Discussion

Findings show that most SR families in FYs 2019-2021 did not report participation in additional public assistance programs at the time they applied for SR. While this could be the case, the accuracy of this reporting needs further investigation. Once the research team has received all administrative datasets from the SNAP, TCA, HCV and Medicaid programs, additional analyses to describe cross-service enrollment will be conducted and compared with the results from these analyses.

Table 2. SR Households Enrolled in Multiple Public Assistance, by Coalition

	Florida School Readiness Program								
	SR Only	SNAP	TCA	HCV	SNAP, TCA	SNAP, HCV	TCA, HCV	SNAP, TCA, HCV	Total Households
State Total	72%	24%	1%	.	3%	.	.	.	173,229
Alachua	82%	14%	3%	.	1%	.	.	.	2,522
Brevard	87%	8%	1%	.	4%	.	.	.	4,583
Broward	62%	30%	1%	.	6%	1%	.	.	12,783
Duval	68%	27%	1%	.	4%	.	.	.	10,800
Escambia	61%	32%	.	1%	3%	2%	.	.	3,129
Flagler and Volusia	55%	40%	1%	.	4%	.	.	.	5,905
Gateway	75%	22%	1%	.	2%	.	.	.	1,833
Heartland	67%	30%	1%	.	2%	.	.	.	2,186
Hillsborough	62%	31%	1%	.	5%	1%	.	.	13,340
IRMO	65%	33%	.	.	1%	.	.	.	2,619
ELC of Lake	65%	32%	1%	.	2%	.	.	.	2,449

ELC of Manatee	88%	8%	2%	.	1%	.	.	.	3,040
ELC of Marion	55%	37%	3%	.	5%	.	.	.	2,931
Miami-Dade/Monroe	65%	30%	.	.	4%	.	.	.	22,516
North Florida/Episcopal Children's Services	81%	15%	1%	.	2%	.	.	.	4,780
Northwest Florida	88%	10%	1%	.	1%	.	.	.	2,933
Orange	89%	7%	1%	.	3%	.	.	.	12,338
Osceola County	84%	13%	.	.	3%	.	.	.	2,919
Palm Beach	92%	7%	1%	.	.	.	.	.	16,037
Pasco and Hernando	76%	19%	2%	.	3%	.	.	.	5,324
Pinellas	62%	32%	1%	.	5%	.	.	.	8,269
Polk	55%	41%	1%	.	4%	.	.	.	6,885
Santa Rosa	75%	23%	.	.	2%	.	.	.	1,152
Sarasota County	83%	13%	2%	.	2%	.	.	.	1,784
Seminole	63%	34%	.	.	3%	.	.	.	2,807

Southwest Florida	60%	37%	.	.	3%	.	.	.	5,861
St. Lucie	89%	9%	2%	.	.	.	.	.	2,946
Big Bend Region	89%	8%	3%	.	.	.	.	.	4,594
Emerald Coast	78%	18%	2%	.	2%	.	.	.	1,833
Nature Coast	66%	29%	2%	.	3%	.	.	.	2,131

Note. Proportions that are less than 1% are not reported