



## CHILDHOOD RESILIENCE

# Four-Year-Old Kindergarten Attendance

### INDICATOR

Percent of children enrolled in state-funded Four-Year-Old Kindergarten (4K) programs.

<b>Numerator</b>	Number of four-year-olds enrolled in any state-funded 4K program, full or half day
<b>Denominator</b>	Children aged 4

### DESCRIPTION

This is a measure of the percent of four-year-olds who are enrolled in any state-funded 4K, not including Special Education, or Head Start.

YEAR:		2016	
WI	US	Best	Worst
71%*	32%	81.2% DC	0% Multiple
PAST YEAR:		2015	
WI	US		
64%*	29%		

\* Indicates a statistically significant difference from the US value at  $p < 0.05$ .

### IMPORTANCE

This metric tracks the percent of children enrolled in quality 4K, which has demonstrated widespread benefits for all children, with particularly positive effects for minority racial and ethnic groups. 4K is not mandatory for children in Wisconsin. 4K also has no eligibility requirements aside from age; and these programs provide education based on learning standards (DPI, 2016). Enrollment in 4K leads to increased readiness for further education, as well as enhanced individual characteristics, such as self-control, and self-esteem (NIEER, 2014; Bainbridge, 2005; Wong, 2008). For every dollar invested in early childhood, there is a return of more than six dollars (Child Trends, 2017). Additionally, 4K attendance may be a marker of available educational resources (e.g., tracking prioritization of early education by local and state governments).

### LIMITATIONS

- This metric tracks children in state-funded programs only. The early advantage experienced by children in 4K depends on the quality of the 4K program, a factor that is not tracked in this metric. Standards, however, are in place and can be found online at the Wisconsin Model Early Learning Standards.
- This metric does not differentiate between half-day and full-day 4K.

### ADDITIONAL ANALYSES

#### Wisconsin Analyses

Wisconsin ranks 4th in providing free, voluntary education for 4-year-olds through the Four-Year-Old Kindergarten program.

#### National Analyses

### SOURCE

Child Trends. (2017). Preschool Pays Off Two Generations. Child Trends News Services and Ivanhoe Broadcast News. Retrieved from <https://www.childtrends.org/videos/preschool-pays-off-two-generations>.

Jay, et al. (2005). Who gets an early education? Family income and the enrollment of three-to five-year-olds from 1968 to 2000. Social Science Quarterly, 86(3), 724-745.

NIEER. (2017). 2016 State of Preschool Yearbook. Graduate School of Education, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ. Bainbridge, Wong, Vivian C., et al. (2008). An effectiveness-based evaluation of five state pre-kindergarten programs. Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, 27(1), 122-154.