



Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative Status of Young Children 2014

OUR VISION:

Children in Montcalm County are healthy, eager, and prepared to succeed in school and life.

OUR MISSION:

To develop a seamless system of care that utilizes community resources and supports, to help our families have access to the tools needed to provide a healthy start for all children birth to kindergarten entry.

For more information please call the Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative at:
(616) 225-6146
www.GreatStartMontcalm.org

WHAT THE DATA SHOWS US:

- **26.5% of children ages birth to seventeen live in poverty. This is a 3% decrease from 2010.**
- **56.3% of our students receive free or reduced school lunch assistance.**
- **32% of Montcalm County mothers who gave birth did not receive appropriate health care. This average has improved by 4% from last year.**
- **55.4% of Montcalm County births are paid for by Medicaid. State average: 44.8%.**
- **81% of Montcalm County's 19-35 month immunization rates. State average: 74%.**
- **68.8% of children ages 1-4 are participating in Women, Infant, & Children (WIC).**
- **Montcalm County has seen an increase in the number of children birth to five that were substantiated for child abuse and neglect. From 10.4% in 2009 to 25.7% in 2012. The state average is 14.6%.**
- **265 birth to five children were served through Early ON & Special Education services in 2011.**

Report Data Sources: Community Level Information on Kids (CLICKS), Michigan Kids Count and MAISD.

Dear Community Member,

We want to take this opportunity to remind you that the first five years of a child's life are a time of great opportunity. By age six, ninety percent of a child's brain development will have been established. We are working hard to promote that Parents are their child's first and best teacher, therefore supporting parents is critical in Montcalm County. In Montcalm County during 2011 there were 739 births and a total of 3,602 birth to five children living in Montcalm County. These numbers are at an all-time low.

Parents and community leaders in Montcalm County who understand the vital importance of investing in young children continue to work together to implement the strategic plan of the Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative (MCGSC). We understand how and when wise investments need to be made to have the most impact for young children. We invite you to join us in our efforts!

This 2014 report is a report that the MCGSC has prepared to present information about our community and our young children. Please contact us with any feedback!

Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative



Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative and Great Start Parent Coalition are the focal point for local early childhood efforts. For more information about early childhood in Montcalm County or to provide feedback regarding this data, please go to:

www.GreatStartMontcalm.org