

# Somerset County Head Start and Early Head Start

## Community Assessment Summary ~ 2015

### Updates – Fall of 2016

*Mission ~ Somerset County Head Start Supports The Development of Young Children, Including Those with Special Needs, And Their Families, By Promoting The Self Sufficiency Of Low Income Families Through Education And Interactive Partnerships.*

## Demographics of Somerset County

Head Start and Early Head Start eligible children are located throughout the county. The county demographics based on race and ethnicity of the population has remained consistent. The population overall has decreased by **2.6% from 1990-2014**.

### Population and Age Breakdown with Benchmark Years

<b>School District</b>	<b>1990 Population</b>	<b>2012 Population</b>	<b>2014 Population</b>	<b>% under 18</b>	<b>% 65+</b>	<b>Median age</b>
<b>Berlin</b>	5809	5797	5742	20.9	20.6	45.7
<b>Conemaugh</b>	8800	8095	8017	17.1	22.2	49.1
<b>Meyersdale</b>	7565	6955	6888	19.7	19	44.1
<b>North Star</b>	9688	9026	8940	21.3	19.1	46.1
<b>Rockwood</b>	5718	5558	5505	20.3	18.4	44.3
<b>Salisbury</b>	3028	2938	2910	22.6	18.4	40.0
<b>Shade</b>	4423	3858	3821	18.0	19.7	46.2
<b>Shanksville</b>	2706	2839	2812	20.5	17.9	45.2
<b>Somerset</b>	18303	21109	21,905	16.4	17.2	41.9
<b>Turkeyfoot</b>	3028	2761	2734	19.2	26.3	48.2
<b>Windber</b>	10099	8788	8690	18.9	21.8	46.3
<b>State of PA</b>			12,787,209	21.5	16.0	40.4

**Data Source: Center for Rural Pennsylvania**

**Poverty Rates - time period of 2010-2014**

<b>School District</b>	<b>All people</b>	<b>Children only</b>
<b>Berlin</b>	11.3	23.9
<b>Conemaugh</b>	8.5	8.4
<b>Meyersdale</b>	13.9	21.3
<b>North Star</b>	12.7	18.3
<b>Rockwood</b>	11.7	18.3
<b>Salisbury</b>	13.5	17.9
<b>Shade</b>	11.5	16.9
<b>Shanksville</b>	13.3	19.8
<b>Somerset</b>	15.5	25.2
<b>Turkeyfoot</b>	17.8	28.4
<b>Windber</b>	10.7	13.6
<b>State of PA</b>	13.5	19.2

**Data Source: Center for Rural Pennsylvania**

**Demographic Breakdown of Ethnicity and Race – time period 2010-2014**

<b>School District</b>	<b>Ethnicity by %</b>		<b>Race by %</b>			
	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>Non-Hispanic</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>Other/multi</b>
<b>Berlin</b>	0.8	99.2	98.7	0.1	0	1.1
<b>Conemaugh</b>	0.5	99.5	98.2	0.6	0	1.2
<b>Meyersdale</b>	0.6	99.4	99.2	0.2	0.1	0.5
<b>North Star</b>	0.3	99.7	98.7	0.3	0	1.0
<b>Rockwood</b>	0.3	99.7	98.4	0.5	0.3	0.9
<b>Salisbury</b>	1.5	98.5	99.4	0.1	0	0.5
<b>Shade</b>	0.9	99.1	98.4	0.2	0	1.4
<b>Shanksville</b>	0.1	99.9	99.1	0.1	0.2	0.5
<b>Somerset</b>	2.9	97.1	88.8	8.3	0.4	2.5
<b>Turkeyfoot</b>	0.8	99.2	99.4	0.2	0	0.4
<b>Windber</b>	0.9	99.1	96.9	0.1	1.3	1.7
<b>State of PA</b>	6.1	93.9	81.9	10.9	3.0	4.2

**Data Source: Center for Rural Pennsylvania**

Demographic Breakdown of Ethnicity and Race – HS and EHS students

	Ethnicity				Race					
	Hispanic		Non-Hispanic		White		Black		Other or Multi	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Early Head Start	-	-	81	100	75	92	3	4	3	4
Head Start	1	<1	115	99	111	96	0	-	4	3

Data Source : 2015-2016 Tableland Services, Inc. PIR report

**Somerset County School District Data**

**School District Enrollments ~ Kindergarten/Grade 12**

School District	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16
Berlin	48/73	48/73	50/82	70/75	58/68
Conemaugh	72/84	81/69	85/87	69/86	79/80
Meyersdale	72/71	69/67	54/77	64/53	58/76
North Star	76/93	110/88	88/125	87/80	97/99
Rockwood	64/55	57/63	44/46	46/50	45/57
Salisbury	22/30	18/21	25/25	24/31	23/25
Shade	38/53	27/46	23/41	30/40	23/42
Shanksville	23/30	23/32	22/26	24/29	16/31
Somerset	143/180	155/164	155/190	155/163	157/194
Turkeyfoot	24/30	36/32	28/34	31/26	29/31
Windber	81/90	92/114	79/90	78/72	77/86

Data Source : Appalachian Intermediate Unit #08

As can be seen in this chart derived from information obtained from each district at the beginning of each school year, student population is decreasing. In 2011-12, 9 out of 11 school districts had more seniors than kindergartners. The trend continued as 8 out of 11 in 12-13, 10 out of 11 in 13-14 and 8 out of 11 in 14-15 had more seniors than kindergartners. **Now, most recently, all 12 school districts have more seniors than entering kindergartners. Combining all school districts, the overall decrease in enrolled students in kindergarten from 11-12 to 15-16 is only 1 student. Remarkably, there is no difference from 11-12 seniors to 15-16 seniors, both having a total of 789.**

The **CAP assessment** has 3604 children 0-4 in the county in 2012. The Reach and Risk data has 3702 children under the age of 4 living in Somerset County in 2012. With a poverty rate of 22.7%, there could be a possible 818 children eligible for Head Start and Early Head Start.

Using the **OCDEL** data, 1507 3-4 year-olds lived in Somerset County. With a poverty rate of 22.7% that would mean there should be 342, 3 and 4 year-olds eligible for Head Start.

**Healthy Beginnings** is a program for pregnant women in the county. They deliver an average of 400 babies a year, 25% of whom are to low income mothers. That would suggest that 100 babies a year would be from Early Head Start eligible families.

Recently, we experienced a closure of the delivery unit at our local Somerset Hospital. Now, pregnant moms will have to utilize the services through programs like this, or travel to neighboring counties for delivery services.

**Tableland’s on-going community survey** asked respondents who had preschool children who were not enrolled in a preschool program why the children were not enrolled. 17 or 35% of them said they were not aware of any program.

The **average income** for workers is \$9000 less than the state average. Coal mines have closed which add to the % of unemployed persons in the county. Somerset’s unemployment percentage is 8.7% compared to Bedford at 7.6% and Cambria at 6.3%.

Although enrollment is staying consistent from 11-12, the percentage of children in school districts eligible for **free and reduced meals has increased overall.**

**(%) Percentages of children eligible for free and reduced meals:**

<b>School district</b>	<b>11-12</b>	<b>12-13</b>	<b>13-14</b>	<b>14-15</b>	<b>15-16</b>
<b>Berlin</b>	37.8	36.9	35.9	37.9	43.8
<b>Conemaugh</b>	37.5	40.1	41.6	42.2	40
<b>Meyersdale</b>	42	44.8	45.3	47.8	45.5
<b>North Star</b>	51.7	53.2	50.6	50.3	51
<b>Rockwood</b>	36.9	35.9	39.1	36.5	41
<b>Salisbury</b>	44.3	41.7	50.8	48.7	49
<b>Shade</b>	48.7	50.9	54.8	59.7	53
<b>Shanksville</b>	35.7	29.8	34.6	35.2	38.1
<b>Somerset</b>	40.1	43	45	47.4	40.1
<b>Turkeyfoot</b>	49.4	56.1	61.1	54.9	63.7
<b>Windber</b>	40.5	42.9	44	46.0	46.6

**Data Source: Single County Authority**

## Students with Disabilities

(#)  
Number of Children with Disabilities

### Appalachian Intermediate Unit #08 Statistics

District	11-12 Disability/ speech	12-13 Disability/ speech	13-14 Disability/ speech	14-15 Disability/ speech	15-16 Disability /speech
Berlin	3/3	5/4	8/6	4/1	5/3
Conemaugh Township	6/7	7/4	6/7	1/7	1/5
Meyersdale	6/7	7/7	8/5	3/2	5/2
North Star	11/12	13/12	11/12	4/4	6/3
Rockwood	3/2	7/7	1/4	0/2	2/4
Salisbury	2/1	2/0	0/0	1/1	1/1
Shade	2/5	2/3	3/6	3/4	5/0
Shanksville	1/2	1/2	2/5	0/5	0/3
Somerset	20/13	16/22	23/17	9/17	11/17
Turkeyfoot	0/1	0/3	0/4	0/4	0/1
Windber	10/4	8/5	7/6	1/6	3/7
Sub total	64/53	63/65	69/72	26/53	39/46
Total	117	128	141	79	85

**Data Source: AIU#08**

### School District Data K-12 ~ All disabilities (# / %)

District	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16
Berlin	120/13.8	108/13.8	108/13.7	100	114/14.9
Conemaugh	170/17.3	161/16.1	148/14.9	152	158/15.8
Meyersdale	119/13.1	129/14	128/14.5	125	125/14.5
North Star	188/16.8	196/17.3	202/17.5	200	191/16.7
Rockwood	110/14.3	92/12.1	88/12	87	84/11.4
Salisbury	30/10.8	33/12.1	NA/NA	25	32/11.7
Shade	108/19.3	108/21.1	107/22.6	102	95/20.6
Shanksville	54/14.3	44/12.5	NA/NA	54	56/16.5
Somerset	445/19.5	451/20	451/19.9	421	374/17.1
Turkeyfoot	62/16.1	61/15.1	61/15.5	62	59/15.2
Windber	148/11.8	136/10.9	134/11.2	140	136/11.5

**Data Source: AIU#08**

## Head Start /EHS statistics by (%) Percentages

Year	% of HS children w/ disabilities	% of EHS children w/ disabilities
2011-12	20	17
2012-13	19	24
2013-14	28	17
2014-15	24	10 *
<b>2015-16</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>11</b>

\*24 EHS children started in October 2014

**Data Source : Tableland Services, Inc. PIR reports**

### Head Start Types of Disabilities

	10-11	11-12	12-13	13-14	14-15	15-16
Health impairment	0	0	0	1	0	0
Emotional/behavioral disorder	1	3	3	3	1	1
Speech or language impairments	14	15	11	17	11	11
Mental retardation	0	0	0	0	0	-
Hearing impairment, including deafness	0	0	0	0	0	0
Orthopedic impairment	2	0	0	0	0	0
Visual impairment, including blindness	0	0	0	0	0	0
Learning disabilities	0	0	0	0	2	0
Autism	2	3	1	3	13	0
Traumatic brain injury	0	0	0	0	0	0
Non-categorical/developmental delay	12	5	9	8	0	18
Multiple disabilities, including deaf-blind	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Data Source: Tableland Services, Inc. PIR reports**

### Early Invention (children with disabilities 0-3) statistics

2013	2014	2015
184	135	191

**Data Source: Early Intervention**

There are 15 **licensed child care centers** in Somerset County. None are Star 3 or 4.

There are 7 **licensed Group Day Care homes**. None are Star 3 or 4.

There are 10 **Family Day Care homes**. One is Star 1.

These are the **numbers of subsidized child care slots**:

CCA has only had CCIS since July of 2013, so the following numbers from ORS program– the system pulls data based on the age of the individual at the time of the report – not the time of service, so these numbers might be a little off. There were 13 children on a waiting list in April 2015.

Somerset County	7/1 – 12/31 2013	1/1 – 12/31 2014	1/1- 12/31 2015
Ages 0-5	152	292	268
Ages 6-11	142	194	232
Ages 12-17	21	29	32

**Data Source : ORS Report**

Conemaugh Township had a Head Start/Pre-K Counts classroom in 2014-15 school year. The district has informed us that there will be no space for us in the 2015-16 school year because of the need for another kindergarten classroom. According to an OCDEL report, Conemaugh Township has sent a letter of intent to apply for 40 Pre-K Counts slots.

North Star has a half day pre-school program for 4 year-olds. It does not seem to affect Head Start enrollment.

The Learning Lamp is applying for Pre-K slots in Rockwood. They have a for-fee preschool there now. **We ended up partnering with The Learning Lamp in the Rockwood Classroom for the 15-16 school year. They allotted 10 PreK slots, and we allotted 10 PreK slots. This partnership/collaboration has worked for each provider, as well as the relationship with Rockwood School District. We are piloting a longer day at this site, so the children can ride the local school district transportation. We also are working closely with this district that currently does not have a PreK program, as they learn how to grow young learners successfully.**

Somerset, being the largest town and school district, has the largest number of eligible families. The school district in 2014 began their own K-4 program. For the 2015-16 school year, they added another k-4 classroom so that they will serve 60 4 year-olds.

Shanksville has a pre-k classroom. We do not usually have any children from that district in Head Start.

Turkeyfoot School District (Confluence) had a Pre-K Counts classroom serving 15 children. Two years ago, the district took it over and now they should serve all 4 year-olds who wish to attend. **Due to the lack of population / interest in the Confluence area, we had to sadly close our program for the 15-16 school year. We worked in collaboration with the superintendent of Turkeyfoot to try to recruit and fill both**



classrooms. Being unable to do that, we dropped our program, and offered services for those interested still through our Family Center out of Salisbury. Our hopes are to watch the demand and population trends in order to get back into that site in the near future.

Windber has run a K-4 program serving up to 80 four-year-olds for several years. The children we have from Windber have been transported other places for several years after we left the Windber Community Center because of decaying building conditions. We were able to begin class back in Windber again. Yet this time we had the benefit of being in the elementary school.

The Health Manager and the EHS supervisor have met with the staff of Healthy Beginnings. After a long interrogation period, the Healthy Beginning staff has begun to refer their clients to us. The Healthy Beginnings staff have expressed concern over their patients who are young and have no competent family members to assist in their prenatal care. They also see the rise of drug use with pregnant mothers. In 2014, 21 pregnant women served by Healthy Beginnings were drug addicted. So far this year there are 23 drug addicted pregnant women. In the past two weeks, Healthy Beginnings have made 20 referrals to EHS.

**Number of Women Seeking Evaluation/Treatment for Drug/Alcohol Abuse/Addiction**

	<b>FY 2010</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>	<b>FY 2012</b>	<b>FY 2013</b>	<b>FY 2014</b>	<b>FY 2015</b>	<b>FY 2016 *</b>
<b>Women with Children</b>	46	50	35	55	41	27	45
<b>Pregnant Women</b>	3	2	7	5	2	1	4

\* Data to this point.

**Data Source: Single County Authority**

The rise in drug use by pregnant mothers and other parents has affected Head Start classrooms. The disengagement of parents in the lives of their children has also contributed to the increase in challenging behaviors in the classroom. Parent Disengagement is a problem that has led the United Way to support programs targeting Somerset County. (See United Way of Laurel Highlands 2014 Campaign video). The District attorney of Somerset County states that 85% of all crime in the county is related to drugs and alcohol use. Challenging behaviors have led Head Start to employ a third person in most classrooms for at least part of the day. Initially, it was thought that Therapeutic Support Staff (TSS) would be an answer to the problem. However, their rules prevent them from being helpful in a preschool classroom. In



addition, TSS services are now provided through the managed care system. That has increased the time between referrals and actual service provision.

There are no mental health facilities in Somerset County. There are 10 psychologists which averages out to .13 per 1000 persons.

**This is the most recent PSSA scores release: From 2015 -2016 School Year**

School district	# scored in math	Advanced Math %	Proficient Math %	Basic Math %	Below Basic %
Berlin	319	13.8	35.1	34.5	16.6
Conemaugh	419	17.6	35.1	28.1	19.1
Meyersdale	399	9.3	27.3	39.6	23.8
North Star	443	14.7	28.5	38.2	18.7
Rockwood	334	17.1	36.5	31.1	16.2
Salisbury	114	8.8	22.8	43.8	24.5
Shade	206	7.3	24.8	37.9	30.1
Shanksville	140	5.7	27.2	40.0	27.2
Somerset	909	9.5	31.1	35.1	24.3
Turkeyfoot	159	5.0	18.2	44.7	32.1
Windber	520	21.9	34.1	29.6	14.4
State of PA	681,601	14.6	27.6	31.3	26.5

**Data Source : Center for Rural Pennsylvania**

School district	# scored in reading	Advanced Reading	Proficient Reading	Basic Reading	Below Basic
Berlin	321	17.8	46.1	28.7	7.5
Conemaugh	421	18.5	51.1	22.8	7.6
Meyersdale	398	11.8	43.5	36.7	8.0
North Star	443	18.0	46.9	29.8	5.2
Rockwood	334	16.7	53.0	26.6	3.6
Salisbury	89	10.1	61.8	28.1	0
Shade	206	6.3	46.6	33.5	13.6
Shanksville	140	15.0	54.3	25.4	4.3
Somerset	910	18.6	42.3	29.7	9.4
Turkeyfoot	160	6.2	30.0	50.0	13.8
Windber	521	20.5	47.0	28.0	4.4
State of PA	681,272	18.7	43.7	27.7	9.9

**Data Source : Center for Rural Pennsylvania**

15% of Somerset County residents over the age of 18 have no high school diploma and are low-literate.

49.4 % have a high school diploma, 13.7% have some college. 7.4% have an associate’s degree. 9.2% have a bachelors and 4.9 have graduate degrees.

Housing : **Data based on 2010-2014**

School District	Of all Housing % Mobile homes	Average housing value \$	Average rent \$
Berlin	15.2	136,490	577
Con Twnship	8.4	125,199	803
Meyersdale	13.7	108,279	575
North Star	10.6	108,493	563
Rockwood	10.3	155,460	583
Salisbury	9.8	122,033	514
Shade	6.9	90,739	544
Shanksville	3.8	210,814	767
Somerset	14.5	146,716	588
Turkeyfoot	25.8	122,334	594
Windber	2.9	98,213	637
State of PA	4.1	202,534	905

**Data Source : Center for Rural Pennsylvania**

**(#) Number Seeking Assistance From Tableland Services, Inc. Homeless Program or Next Step Center**

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
# seeking assistance from Tableland’s homeless program or Next Step center	68	57	56	191 132 adults 59 children	84 61 adults 23 children

**Data Source : ORS Report**

## Health

	<b>11-12</b>	<b>12-13</b>	<b>13-14</b>	<b>14-15</b>	<b>15-16</b>
<b>Underweight</b>	3	8	6	5	7
<b>Healthy Weight</b>	105	100	95	71	71
<b>Overweight</b>	23	26	17	18	16
<b>Obese</b>	16	27	21	11	22

**Data Source : Tableland Services, Inc. PIR Report**

There are small communities in the county with no grocery stores within walking distance. People shop at the Family Dollar, Dollar General, Sheetz stores and other gas stations that sell packaged foods. These communities have been called food deserts.

These are the statistics received from local food pantries:

<b>Year</b>	<b>children</b>	<b>adults</b>	<b>seniors</b>	<b>total</b>
2012-13	11388	20155	5944	37487
2013-2014	11197	19860	6902	37959
2014-2015	11387	18856	7399	37642
2015-2016	9983	17641	7406	35030

**Data Source : Somerset County Food Pantry**

Tableland gets donations every Friday from restaurants on the PA Turnpike. It is distributed to anyone participating in any Tableland programs. Because our EHS socializations take place on Fridays, our EHS parents get to participate.

The leading causes of death in the Somerset County are heart disease and cancer. Those have remained consistent for years.

There is a county transportation service that provides shared ride services to senior citizens for a small fee and MATP (Medical Assistance) clients.

81.3% of workers drive alone to their jobs with an average commute of 22 minutes according to the CAP Community Assessment.

Anyone participating in Tableland’s Welfare-to-Work programs can receive driving instruction to get a driver’s license. The rural nature of the county and the lack of public transportation, make having a vehicle and being able to legally drive it a necessity, especially for work as indicated by the above survey results.

## Population in the Workforce

### Workforce Data for time period of 2010-2014

	<b>16 years old or older</b>	<b>% Employed</b>	<b>% Unemployed</b>	<b>% Not in the labor force</b>
<b>Berlin</b>	4757	56	3	41
<b>Conemaugh</b>	7062	57	3.2	39.8
<b>Meyersdale</b>	5687	57.5	3.9	38.6
<b>North Star</b>	7283	54.5	4.8	40.8
<b>Rockwood</b>	4652	56.1	4.5	39.4
<b>Salisbury</b>	2381	58.5	3.6	37.9
<b>Shade</b>	3203	53.3	6.2	40.6
<b>Shanksville</b>	2389	52.3	7.6	40.1
<b>Somerset</b>	18,072	43.8	3.6	52.6
<b>Turkeyfoot</b>	2497	40.3	6.6	53
<b>Windber</b>	7055	53.8	4.3	41.9
<b>State of PA</b>	10,345,842	57.5	5.4	37.1

**Data Source : Center for Rural Pennsylvania**