



## Northwest Florida Early Childhood Consortium Children Birth to Age 8 Years old

### FAMILY SURVEY RESULTS July 30, 2012

**1). What county do you live in?**

- **31.0%** Bay County
- **17.7%** Gadsden County
- **29.2%** Leon County
- **22.1%** Washington County

**2.) Do you have any children under the age 8 years old living in household?**

- 98.2% of families who participated in the survey had young children under the age of 8 years old living in their household.
- 1.8% of families who participated in the survey had adopted and/or fostered children with special needs who had been placed in household before the age 8 OR were grandparents who frequently cared for grandchildren under the age of 8 years old.

<b>3.) What is your child(ren)'s race?</b>	<b>Bay County</b>	<b>Gadsden County</b>	<b>Leon County</b>	<b>Washington County</b>	<b>RESPONSE TOTALS</b>
White	<b>79.4%</b>	15.0%	<b>51.5%</b>	<b>84.0%</b>	<b>60.7%</b>
Black or African American	17.6%	<b>85.0%</b>	45.5%	16.0%	37.5%
Multiracial	20.6%	0.0%	9.1%	0.0%	8.9%
Asian	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	2.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%
American Indian/Alaska Native	5.9%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	1.8%

4.) Is your child(ren) of Hispanic or Latino Origin?	Bay County	Gadsden County	Leon County	Washington County	RESPONSE TOTALS
3.1% Hispanic	2.9%	0.0%	6.9%	4.0%	3.7%
96.9% Non-Hispanic	97.1 %	100.0%	93.1%	96.0%	96.3%

5.) What is your relationship(s) to the children in your household?	Bay County	Gadsden County	Leon County	Washington County	RESPONSE TOTALS
Mother	69.7%	95.0%	56.3%	66.7%	69.7%
Father	18.2%	5.0%	18.8%	33.3%	19.3%
Stepmother	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Stepfather	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%
Grandparent	15.2%	0.0%	18.8%	0.0%	10.1%
Foster Parent	3.0%	0.0%	6.3%	0.0%	2.8%
Other Family Member	0.0%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%
Other non-relative	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	4.2%	0.9%

6.) Which of the following best describes the type of household you live in?	Bay County	Gadsden County	Leon County	Washington County	RESPONSE TOTALS
Single Mother Headed Household	29.4%	55.0%	24.2%	24.0%	31.3%
Single Father Headed Household	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%	12.0%	3.6%
Two Parent Headed Household	52.9%	30.0%	57.6%	52.0%	50.0%
Grandparent/Other Family Headed Household	17.6%	15.0%	15.2%	12.0%	15.2%
Move frequently between homes of family & friends	0.0%	0.0%	3.0%	4.0%	1.8%

7.) What is your level of education?	Bay County	Gadsden County	Leon County	Washington County	RESPONSE TOTALS
Less than High School	14.3%	45.0%	3.0%	32.0%	20.4%
High School Education or GED	25.7%	30.0%	21.2%	24.0%	24.8%
Some College/Vocational Training	28.6%	10.0%	6.1%	36.0%	20.4%
2 Years College Degree	8.6%	5.0%	18.2%	4.0%	9.7%
4 Year College Degree	11.4%	10.0%	39.4%	0.0%	16.8%
Master's Degree/Higher Degree	11.4%	0.0%	12.1%	4.0%	8.0%

8.) During the past 12 months, has anyone in your household received assistance from any of the following programs or services?	Bay County	Gadsden County	Leon County	Washington County	RESPONSE TOTALS
Children's Medical Services	0.0%	20.0%	9.4%	12.0%	8.9%
County Health Department	28.6%	15.0%	0.0%	12.0%	14.3%
Early Head Start	5.7%	35.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.0%
Early Learning Coalition	5.7%	15.0%	15.6%	12.0%	11.6%
Early Steps	0.0%	25.0%	6.3%	4.0%	7.1%
Free/Reduced School Lunch	25.7%	30.0%	18.8%	28.0%	25.0%
Head Start	0.0%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.9%
Healthy Families	0.0%	35.0%	0.0%	4.0%	7.1%
Healthy Start	8.6%	5.0%	0.0%	4.0%	4.5%
Medicaid	42.9%	60.0%	46.9%	64.0%	51.8%
Mental Health Centers	5.7%	0.0%	9.4%	4.0%	5.4%
Public School Pre-Kindergarten (Pre-K)	14.3%	10.0%	9.4%	8.0%	10.7%
SNAP (Food Stamps)	37.1%	45.0%	18.8%	36.0%	33.0%
Substance Abuse Centers	31.4%	0.0%	3.1%	32.0%	18.8%
TANF (Temporary Assistance for Families)	14.3%	10.0%	0.0%	12.0%	8.9%
WIC (Women Infant & Children Program)	34.1%	65.0%	12.5%	36.0%	33.0%
No one in my household is receiving any assistance	22.9%	10.0%	31.3%	20.0%	22.3%

*(See Page 11 for Service Utilization Comparison by Families with and without Children Diagnosed with Special Needs)*

**9.) Has a doctor or health care professional ever diagnosed your child(ren) ever diagnosed your child(ren) with any developmental delays, disabilities and/or conditions requiring special attention?**

- 45.0% of families who participated in the survey had one or more children diagnosed with special needs.
- 3.5% of families who participated in the survey reported that their young child was at risk and/or had a developmental delay or behavioral health condition that did not have a confirmed diagnosis at the present time.
- The majority of families with children with special needs and/or identified "at risk" were receiving public assistance from Medicaid (55.8%), Food Stamps (36.5%), the Free/Reduced School Lunch Program (38.5%), and/or Women, Infant Children Program -WIC (30.8%).

- 11.5% of families of children diagnosed with special needs reported that they had not received any services or treatment for because the family either could not afford medical care, could not find the right provider who would accept Medicaid, and/or they were on a waiting list for services.

<b>Children with Special Needs by Diagnosis, Disorder and/or Conditions reported by Survey Participants and County</b>	<b>Bay County</b>	<b>Gadsden County</b>	<b>Leon County</b>	<b>Washington County</b>	<b>RESPONSE TOTALS</b>
Autism Spectrum Disorder	0.0%	0.0%	11.1%	8.3%	5.8%
Developmental Delay	23.1%	33.3%	22.2%	25.0%	<b>25.0%</b>
Learning Disability	7.7%	0.0%	0.0%	33.3%	9.6%
Mental Health Diagnosis	7.7%	22.2%	0.0%	8.3%	7.7%
Attention Deficit Disorder (ADHD/ADD)	61.5%	11.1%	22.2%	41.7%	<b>34.6%</b>
Emotional Disturbance	15.4%	22.2%	11.1%	16.7%	<b>15.4%</b>
Speech/Language Delay	38.5%	55.6%	33.3%	41.7%	<b>40.4%</b>
Hearing Impairment	0.0%	0.0%	5.6%	16.7%	5.8%
Fetal Alcohol Syndrome	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Medically Fragile	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	3.8%
Mental Disability/Delay	15.4%	11.1%	11.1%	8.3%	<b>11.5%</b>
Physical Disability/Delay	0.0%	0.0%	16.7%	0.0%	5.8%
Visual Impairment	15.4%	0.0%	5.6%	8.3%	7.7%
*Other Diagnosis, Condition or Disorder Not Listed Above*	15.4%	0.0%	38.9%	8.3%	<b>19.2%*</b>

<b>*Other Diagnosis, Condition and/or Disorders Included:</b>	<b>Bay County</b>	<b>Gadsden County</b>	<b>Leon County</b>	<b>Washington County</b>	<b>RESPONSE TOTALS</b>
Asthma (severe)	0.0%	0.0%	5.6%	0.0%	1.9%
Brain Tumor	0.0%	0.0%	5.6%	0.0%	1.9%
Behavioral Disorder	0.0%	0.0%	5.6%	0.0%	1.9%
Seizure Disorder & Sleep Apnea	0.0%	0.0%	5.6%	0.0%	1.9%
Sickle Cell Anemia	0.0%	0.0%	5.6%	0.0%	1.9%
Potocki Shaffer Syndrome	0.0%	0.0%	5.6%	0.0%	1.9%
Diagnosis Not Yet Confirmed	<b>15.4%</b>	0.0%	5.6%	8.3%	<b>7.7%</b>

10.) How many children under the age of 8 years old in your household have been diagnosed with one or more of the disorders and/or conditions listed in (Question # 9)?

- 33.0% of families who participated in the survey had at least one child with special needs.
- 7.1% of families reported having at least two young children living in their household with special needs
- 4.5% of families reported having three or more young children living in their household with special needs.

11.) On a scale of 1 to 5, with "1" as "*strongly disagree*" and "5" as "*strongly agree*," how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about Young Child(ren)'s Emotional and Social Development?

a. I understand my child(ren)'s developmental ability to experience and control emotions.....	Bay County	Gadsden County	Leon County	Washington County
Strongly Disagree "1"	5.9%	0.0%	6.1%	12.0%
Disagree "2"	0.0%	5.0%	3.0%	0.0%
Somewhat Agree "3"	20.6%	25.0%	15.2%	12.0%
Agree "4"	<b>41.2%</b>	<b>35.0%</b>	36.4%	28.0%
Strongly Agree "5"	32.4%	<b>35.0%</b>	<b>39.4%</b>	<b>48.0%</b>
RATING AVERAGE (Overall Rating Average = 3.98)	3.94	4.00	4.00	4.00

b. I understand my child(ren)'s developmental ability to control impulses and/or behavior.....	Bay County	Gadsden County	Leon County	Washington County
Strongly Disagree "1"	8.8%	0.0%	6.5%	12.0%
Disagree "2"	0.0%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Somewhat Agree "3"	23.5%	25.0%	9.7%	12.0%
Agree "4"	35.3%	<b>35.0%</b>	22.6%	28.0%
Strongly Agree "5"	<b>45.5%</b>	<b>35.0%</b>	<b>39.4%</b>	<b>80.0%</b>
RATING AVERAGE (Overall Rating Average = 4.04)	3.82	4.00	4.32	4.00

c. I understand the types of emotional, social and behavioral issues and conditions which may affect young children.....	Bay County	Gadsden County	Leon County	Washington County
Strongly Disagree "1"	5.9%	0.0%	6.3%	12.0%
Disagree "2"	0.0%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Somewhat Agree "3"	20.6%	<b>35.0%</b>	12.5%	8.0%
Agree "4"	<b>41.2%</b>	35.0%	21.9%	32.0%
Strongly Agree "5"	32.4%	25.0%	<b>59.4%</b>	<b>48.0%</b>
RATING AVERAGE (Overall Rating Average =4.04)	3.94	3.80	4.28	4.04

**12.) Has your child(ren) ever been suspended from daycare, school or a program due to a "reported" behavior issue?**

- 11.7% of families reported that their young child had been suspended from daycare, school or a program due to "reported" behavior issue. Children diagnosed with special needs represented 77% of the children suspended.
- Almost half (46.2%) of these young children were living in single mother headed households and (100%) of all the children reported as being suspended in the past year were living in households receiving public assistance.
- 15% of families with young children suspended daycare or school reported that their family was either "moving frequently between friends and family" or staying in a homeless shelter during the past 12 months.
- The majority of these young children who had been suspended from daycare, school or a program had been diagnosed with ADHD (70.0%), Speech/Language Delays (40.0%), or Autism Spectrum Disorder (20.0%), Behavioral Disorder (30.0%), Mental Health Diagnosis (20.0%), Learning Disability (20%), and/or a Developmental Delay (20.0%) .

12.) Has your child(ren) ever been suspended from daycare, school or a program due to "reported" behavior issue?	Bay County	Gadsden County	Leon County	Washington County	RESPONSE TOTALS
Yes	11.8%	5.0%	18.8%	8.0%	<b>11.7%</b>
No	88.2%	95.0%	81.3%	92.0%	88.3%

1. I know where to go for assistance if I have concerns about my young child(ren).	Bay County	Gadsden County	Leon County	Washington County
Strongly Disagree "1"	3.0%	0.0%	6.7%	4.0%
Disagree "2"	3.0%	0.0%	3.3%	4.0%
Somewhat Agree "3"	21.2%	<b>35.0%</b>	<b>40.0%</b>	4.0%
Agree "4"	27.3%	<b>35.0%</b>	26.7%	<b>44.0%</b>
Strongly Agree "5"	<b>45.5%</b>	30.0%	23.3%	<b>44.0%</b>
RATING AVERAGE (Overall Rate Average = 3.95)	4.09	3.95	3.57	4.24

2. I feel safe and comfortable voicing my concerns for my young child(ren).	Bay County	Gadsden County	Leon County	Washington County
Strongly Disagree "1"	3.0%	0.0%	6.7%	4.0%
Disagree "2"	6.1%	5.0%	3.3%	8.0%
Somewhat Agree "3"	6.1%	20.0%	13.3%	0.0%
Agree "4"	24.2%	30.0%	30.0%	24.0%
Strongly Agree "5"	<b>60.6%</b>	<b>45.0%</b>	<b>46.7%</b>	<b>64.0%</b>
RATING AVERAGE (Overall Rate Average = 4.16)	4.09	4.15	4.07	4.36

3. I can receive services in a reasonable amount of time if my child(ren) needs assistance.	Bay County	Gadsden County	Leon County	Washington County
Strongly Disagree "1"	6.1%	5.0%	3.3%	12.0%
Disagree "2"	15.2%	20.0%	6.7%	4.0%
Somewhat Agree "3"	<b>27.3%</b>	15.0%	30.0%	12.0%
Agree "4"	<b>27.3%</b>	15.0%	26.7%	32.0%
Strongly Agree "5"	24.2%	<b>45.0%</b>	<b>33.3%</b>	<b>40.0%</b>
RATING AVERAGE (Overall Rate Average= 3.56)	3.21	3.75	3.80	3.84

4. I can receive the right services to meet the unique needs of my children and families.	Bay County	Gadsden County	Leon County	Washington County
Strongly Disagree "1"	9.1%	0.0%	10.0%	4.0%
Disagree "2"	9.1%	0.0%	13.3%	8.0%
Somewhat Agree "3"	24.2%	<b>45.0%</b>	<b>30.0%</b>	16.0%
Agree "4"	<b>33.3%</b>	25.0%	20.0%	<b>36.0%</b>
Strongly Agree "5"	24.2%	30.0%	26.7%	<b>36.0%</b>
RATING AVERAGE (Overall Rate Average= 3.56)	3.55	3.40	3.40	3.92

5. Services are available at times convenient for my family	Bay County	Gadsden County	Leon County	Washington County
Strongly Disagree "1"	3.0%	5.0%	0.0%	8.0%
Disagree "2"	12.1%	5.0%	10.7%	4.0%
Somewhat Agree "3"	<b>33.3%</b>	<b>35.0%</b>	25.0%	24.0%
Agree "4"	<b>33.3%</b>	30.0%	<b>42.9%</b>	<b>36.0%</b>
Strongly Agree "5"	18.2%	25.0%	21.4%	<b>28.0%</b>
RATING AVERAGE (Overall Rate Average = 3.52)	3.52	3.65	3.75	3.16

6. I have access to transportation, if needed to receive services for my child(ren).	Bay County	Gadsden County	Leon County	Washington County
Strongly Disagree "1"	9.1%	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%
Disagree "2"	0.0%	20.0%	3.6%	12.0%
Somewhat Agree "3"	9.1%	20.0%	21.4%	8.0%
Agree "4"	24.2%	20.0%	<b>42.9%</b>	28.0%
Strongly Agree "5"	<b>57.6%</b>	<b>40.0%</b>	25.0%	<b>52.0%</b>
RATING AVERAGE (Overall Rate Average = 4.00)	3.97	4.20	3.68	4.20

7. I have access to childcare, if needed to receive services for my child(ren).	Bay County	Gadsden County	Leon County	Washington County
Strongly Disagree "1"	6.1%	15.0%	17.9%	8.0%
Disagree "2"	9.1%	20.0%	7.1%	8.0%
Somewhat Agree "3"	12.1%	20.0%	14.3%	8.0%
Agree "4"	33.3%	20.0%	<b>42.9%</b>	<b>44.0%</b>
Strongly Agree "5"	<b>39.4%</b>	<b>25.0%</b>	17.9%	32.0%
RATING AVERAGE (Overall Rate Average= 3.61)	3.91	3.20	3.36	3.84

8. I am treated with respect and professionals and/or staff really listen to what I have to say.	Bay County	Gadsden County	Leon County	Washington County
Strongly Disagree "1"	3.0%	0.0%	3.3%	4.0%
Disagree "2"	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.0%
Somewhat Agree "3"	12.1%	35.0%	30.0%	24.0%
Agree "4"	<b>54.5%</b>	20.0%	20.0%	28.0%
Strongly Agree "5"	30.3%	<b>45.0%</b>	<b>46.7%</b>	<b>36.0%</b>
RATING AVERAGE (Overall Average Rating = 4.03)	4.09	4.10	4.07	3.84

9. I am spoken to in a way and language I can understand.	Bay County	Gadsden County	Leon County	Washington County
Strongly Disagree "1"	3.0%	0.0%	0.0%	8.0%
Disagree "2"	6.1%	5.0%	0.0%	4.0%
Somewhat Agree "3"	6.1%	5.0%	10.3%	12.0%
Agree "4"	<b>42.4%</b>	35.0%	31.0%	<b>48.0%</b>
Strongly Agree "5"	<b>42.4%</b>	<b>55.0%</b>	<b>58.6%</b>	28.0%
RATING AVERAGE (Overall Rating Average = 4.21)	4.15	4.40	4.48	3.84

10. Services are sensitive to my religious/spiritual beliefs.	Bay County	Gadsden County	Leon County	Washington County
Strongly Disagree "1"	3.0%	5.0%	0.0%	16.0%
Disagree "2"	3.0%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Somewhat Agree "3"	27.3%	30.0%	14.3%	16.0%
Agree "4"	<b>33.3%</b>	25.0%	28.6%	<b>40.0%</b>
Strongly Agree "5"	<b>33.3%</b>	<b>35.0%</b>	<b>57.1%</b>	28.0%
RATING AVERAGE (Overall Rating Average = 3.96)	3.91	3.80	4.43	3.64



11. Services are sensitive to my cultural/ethnic background.	Bay County	Gadsden County	Leon County	Washington County
Strongly Disagree "1"	6.1%	5.0%	0.0%	8.0%
Disagree "2"	0.0%	5.0%	3.6%	0.0%
Somewhat Agree "3"	21.2%	30.0%	17.9%	24.0%
Agree "4"	33.3%	25.0%	21.4%	<b>36.0%</b>
Strongly Agree "5"	<b>39.4%</b>	<b>35.0%</b>	<b>57.1%</b>	32.0%
RATING AVERAGE (Overall Rating Average = 4.01)	4.00	3.80	4.32	3.84

12. Services are provided in my child(ren)'s home and/or school.	Bay County	Gadsden County	Leon County	Washington County
Strongly Disagree "1"	6.1%	0.0%	17.2%	8.0%
Disagree "2"	12.1%	5.0%	13.8%	4.0%
Somewhat Agree "3"	15.2%	25.0%	6.9%	20.0%
Agree "4"	<b>39.4%</b>	<b>35.0%</b>	<b>31.0%</b>	32.0%
Strongly Agree "5"	27.3%	<b>35.0%</b>	<b>31.0%</b>	<b>36.0%</b>
RATING AVERAGE (Overall Rating Average = 3.72)	3.70	4.00	3.45	3.84

13. Services are coordinated with other programs to make it easy for my family to connect with other services, supports & people who can help.	Bay County	Gadsden County	Leon County	Washington County
Strongly Disagree "1"	9.1%	5.0%	14.3%	8.0%
Disagree "2"	12.1%	5.0%	3.6%	0.0%
Somewhat Agree "3"	<b>27.3%</b>	20.0%	17.9%	28.0%
Agree "4"	24.2%	<b>40.0%</b>	<b>35.7%</b>	<b>32.0%</b>
Strongly Agree "5"	<b>27.3%</b>	30.0%	28.6%	<b>32.0%</b>
RATING AVERAGE (Over Average Rating = 3.66)	3.48	3.85	3.61	3.80

14. A case manager helps to connect my family with other services, supports & people who can help.	Bay County	Gadsden County	Leon County	Washington County
Strongly Disagree "1"	12.5%	5.0%	14.8%	20.0%
Disagree "2"	<b>25.0%</b>	0.0%	14.8%	8.0%
Somewhat Agree "3"	18.8%	30.0%	7.4%	16.0%
Agree "4"	21.9%	30.0%	25.9%	24.0%
Strongly Agree "5"	21.9%	<b>35.0%</b>	<b>37.0%</b>	<b>32.0%</b>
RATING AVERAGE (Overall Rating Average = 3.46)	3.16	3.90	3.56	3.40

15. Special services are available if my child(ren) has experienced trauma (such as natural disaster, serious accident, abuse, neglect, etc. )	<b>Bay County</b>	<b>Gadsden County</b>	<b>Leon County</b>	<b>Washington County</b>
Strongly Disagree "1"	3.0%	5.0%	7.4%	8.0%
Disagree "2"	12.1%	5.0%	11.1%	4.0%
Somewhat Agree "3"	<b>33.3%</b>	<b>35.0%</b>	18.5%	28.0%
Agree "4"	<b>33.3%</b>	20.0%	<b>40.7%</b>	<b>32.0%</b>
Strongly Agree "5"	18.2%	<b>35.0%</b>	22.2%	28.0%
RATING AVERAGE (Overall Rating Average =3.62)	3.52	3.75	3.59	3.68

16. Overall, I am satisfied with the quality of services my child(ren) /family received.	<b>Bay County</b>	<b>Gadsden County</b>	<b>Leon County</b>	<b>Washington County</b>
Strongly Disagree "1"	3.0%	5.3%	7.1%	8.0%
Disagree "2"	21.2%	5.3%	3.6%	4.0%
Somewhat Agree "3"	15.2%	21.1%	14.3%	<b>20.0%</b>
Agree "4"	<b>30.3%</b>	31.6%	<b>50.0%</b>	32.0%
Strongly Agree "5"	30.3%	<b>36.8%</b>	25.0%	<b>36.0%</b>
RATING AVERAGE (Overall Average Rating = 3.78)	3.64	3.89	3.82	3.84

17. I am interested in learning about my child(ren)'s developmental capacity to experience emotions and control emotions and behavior at different age levels.	<b>Bay County</b>	<b>Gadsden County</b>	<b>Leon County</b>	<b>Washington County</b>
Strongly Disagree "1"	3.0%	5.0%	0.0%	4.0%
Disagree "2"	9.1%	5.0%	3.3%	0.0%
Somewhat Agree "3"	15.2%	0.0%	10.0%	20.0%
Agree "4"	<b>42.4%</b>	40.0%	40.0%	36.0%
Strongly Agree "5"	30.3%	<b>50.0%</b>	<b>46.7%</b>	<b>40.0%</b>
RATING AVERAGE (Overall Average Rating = 4.11)	3.88	4.25	4.30	4.08

18. I am interested in learning about screening and assessment of my child's emotional & social development as well as age appropriate or "normal" behaviors to help me keep track of their progress and any signs of delay which may require special attention.	<b>Bay County</b>	<b>Gadsden County</b>	<b>Leon County</b>	<b>Washington County</b>
Strongly Disagree "1"	3.0%	5.0%	0.0%	4.0%
Disagree "2"	15.2%	5.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Somewhat Agree "3"	12.1%	0.0%	13.8%	28.0%
Agree "4"	30.3%	<b>45.0%</b>	37.9%	28.0%
Strongly Agree "5"	<b>39.4%</b>	<b>45.0%</b>	<b>48.3%</b>	<b>40.0%</b>
RATING AVERAGE (Overall Average Rating = 4.09)	3.88	4.20	4.34	4.00

19. I would be interested in participating in activities to help improve services in my community for young children and their families	Bay County	Gadsden County	Leon County	Washington County
Strongly Disagree "1"	3.0%	5.0%	0.0%	8.0%
Disagree "2"	9.1%	5.0%	3.4%	4.0%
Somewhat Agree "3"	15.2%	20.0%	10.3%	20.0%
Agree "4"	27.3%	<b>40.0%</b>	37.9%	32.0%
Strongly Agree "5"	<b>45.5%</b>	30.0%	<b>48.3%</b>	<b>36.0%</b>
RATING AVERAGE (4.03)	4.03	3.85	4.31	3.84

### Additional Family Survey Comparison Results

Service Utilization Rates	Families <u>With</u> Children Diagnosed with Special Needs*	Families <u>Without</u> Children Diagnosed with Special Needs
Children's Medical Services	17.3%	1.6%
Health Families	7.7%	6.5%
Early Steps	11.5%	3.3%
County Health Department	15.4%	13.1%
Early Head Start	9.6%	6.6%
Head Start	0.0%	<b>1.6%</b>
Early Learning Coalition	13.5%	8.2%
Healthy Start	7.7%	1.6%
Medicaid	<b>55.8%</b>	45.9%
Mental Health Center	11.5%	0.00%
Substance Abuse Center	17.3%	<b>19.7%</b>
SNAP (Food Stamps)	<b>36.5%</b>	31.1%
Free/Reduced Lunch	<b>38.5%</b>	14.8%
Public School PreK	15.4%	6.6%
TANF	9.6%	6.6%
WIC	30.8%	<b>32.8%</b>

\* Note: Children Diagnosed with Special Needs were defined in the family survey as who have been diagnosed with one or more of the developmental delays, disorders, or conditions which may require special attention (as described on page 4 of this document).

**\*Please Note:** Family survey participants who reported that their child(ren) had not been diagnosed with one or more of the developmental delays, disorders, and/or other conditions which may require special attention (as listed on page 4), may still have children who are at risk, and/or who have conditions which have no confirmed diagnosis at the present time. For example, the survey results show that the majority of families surveyed both with and without children diagnosed with special needs are receiving income-based public assistance which is strong indicator of poverty levels in any community.

Extensive research shows that poverty is one of the most important correlates of poor maternal and child health and educational outcomes. Children who grow up under conditions of poverty are more likely (relative to non-poor children) to be less successful in school, less productive as adults in the labor market, have lifelong health problems, commit crimes, and engage in other problematic behaviors. Early development can be compromised when parents cannot afford to provide nutritious meals, gain access to age-appropriate learning experiences both in the home and in early care and educational setting outside the home, and cannot guarantee safe of positive neighborhood environments. Poverty and economic insecurity also can take a toll on parent's mental health, causing depression and other forms of psychological distress that affect the adult and child interactions. (Center of the Developing Child at Harvard University).

### Other Family Survey Participant Comments

*"The main key to the success of a child with special needs is parental involvement in education, therapy and general child activities. With our current economy, many services are being reduced or eliminated and parents may feel isolated and helpless. It is imperative that resources be devoted effectively educating parents how to be advocates for their children and proactive in seeking activities or services for their children. Additionally, finding ways to encourage parent to parent support would help reduce isolation and encourage parents to learn and be active through meetings, playmates, trainings on the Internet, trainings with child care since many parents with special needs children have no or very little options for providers or no money to pay fees for child care."*

*"I believe it would be beneficial for all state agencies (i.e Medicaid, SNAP, WIC, SS etc.) to be connected to a main data base to avoid duplicate of services as well as to be able to identify services that may be needed to the children of our community."*

*"There needs to be a better effort to coordinate and communicate between agencies and organizations. This community also needs a better understanding of the many great services that are offered. There is not much marketing and promoting by these agencies and organizations. We also need more money and support from local businesses to expand the services."*

*"I wish that training and education about how to help children with their emotions and behaviors was available within other community programs like child care centers and the school that are already serving these young children. It is so hard for families to find time and transportation to go to training."*

### Other Family Survey Participant Comments (continued)

*"I am glad someone is asking about behaviors, because I am a young, first time mom and I am not sure what is "normal" and what I need to be more concerned about."*

*"In addition to being a mother, I work in the social services field. On a daily basis, I see an ongoing need for access to affordable medical and dental care, particularly for working families. I receive a number of emails touting increased access to health care for children as a result of the Affordable Care Act, but the reality I see in our office is a constantly increasing number of families whose children are not receiving routine well-child check ups and almost every instance is due to lack of affordable care. The same is true for mental health services: children with social-emotional concerns who do not have access to routine medical care also need access to mental health services. Although there are places in our community who offer a sliding-fee scale, for the families I serve even that reduced amount is beyond what their budget affords. Thank you for conducting this survey!"*

*"Some agencies seem very interested in my children's emotional and behavioral issues, but some do not seem to be as committed."*

*"I wish there was more access to respite care. We are on the waiting list, but likely won't be eligible until my son is an adult. We are able to hire babysitters sometimes, but there are many parents out there with special needs children with no respite and no way to pay for it."*

*"I would like to see more activities and/or field trips for children with emotional, social and behavior issues in my community."*

*"My adult son who lives with me is a drug addict in and out of recovery. I took him and his two young sons into my home several years ago after he and his wife lost custody. His ex-wife is also a former drug addict and is bi-polar. My youngest grandson had a mouthful of cavities and several abscess teeth when he first moved in with me and needed extensive oral surgery. I could not find any oral surgeons in our area that would accept Medicaid so I had to take off work to drive him back and forth to the nearest Medicaid provider we could find which was over 3 hours away in Jacksonville!"*

*"Our 4-year old daughter has severe asthma, but has not received any services because our family can't afford the costs of medical care."*

*"My grandson has received some services for his behavioral disorder, but we haven't been able to get him the "right" services and the "right" kind of doctors he needs."*

*"My grandson is 3-years old and has been diagnosed with hearing and visual impairments, but has not received any services or treatment because we can't find the right provider who will accept Medicaid."*

*"Our daughter is still an infant and our 4-year old son has been diagnosed with a developmental delay, but has not been able to receive any services or treatment because our family could not afford medical care. Our family is struggling just to meet basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter."*

### **Other Family Survey Participant Comments (continued)**

*"My grandchild son has never been diagnosed with an emotional or behavioral disorder, but he has become very withdrawn over the last year and his grades have dropped considerably. He just doesn't seem to care about anything anymore. "*

*"As grandparents in the role of parenting, we have very little access to any type of assistance for our grandson since the abuse investigation has closed. The only alternative we've been offered is to "let him go to foster care."*

*"If your child does not have Medicaid, and can't afford insurance or services, there is no help for you. If you try to pay for Kidcare and use that, you have to spend a lot of time sending paperwork and just trying to find a doctor or therapist that will accept it-if your coverage doesn't keep getting cut off or changed."*

*"My family does not receive any assistance to connect us with other services or people who can help. Parent who don't have custody agreements or child support orders need more help in our community."*

*"Families with children need more help with accessing transportation to receive services and supports."*

**Conducted by: Shelly Brantley MSW,LCSW  
Innovative Health & Business Solutions, Inc.**