

Linn County Early Childhood Iowa

Counties in Area: Linn County

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Vision: *Every child will have access to quality services empowering them to be healthy and successful.*

Mission: *To provide and support quality education, health and human services through community partnerships and collaborations, for children prenatal-age 5 and their families, resulting in healthy, safe and school ready children.*

Comments from In-Home Family Visitation Program Participants

“You have no idea how many times you have saved my life, just by showing up at my home.” This mother was in a domestic violence situation and through the family support program was able to find safe housing for her and her children and a referral for counseling.

A pregnant teen had little support and many questions. The family support worker met with her weekly-answering questions and assisting her with resources. This young mother recently gave birth and told program staff **“how thankful she was for the program”** and that **“she intends on continuing as it been extremely beneficial.”**

A single mother had exhausted her FIP benefits. By working with her family support worker she obtained a job at Hardee’s and was recently promoted to full-time shift leader. She purchased a car and now provides transportation for herself and her children. The mother shared her feelings of **“improved self-esteem and confidence.”**

Did You Know?

- Over 75% of child abuse reports are for Neglect (*denial of critical care*) rather than physical injury or sexual abuse. (Prevent Child Abuse Iowa data, 2010-2013)
- *“The younger a child is when they experience toxic stress, the more likely they are to have pervasive problems later.”* (Dr. Bruce Perry, 2014).

Why Are The Programs ECI Supports Important to Reaching Our Vision & Mission?

- The Linn County ECI Board understands that investment in quality early intervention services is the key to **healthy, safe and school ready children.**

Linn County Community Plan Priorities

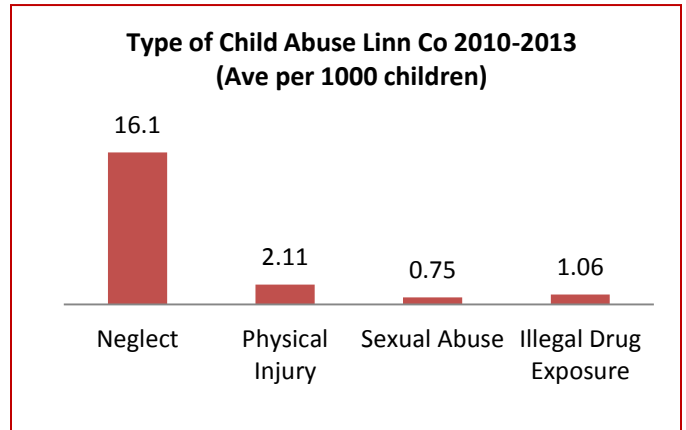
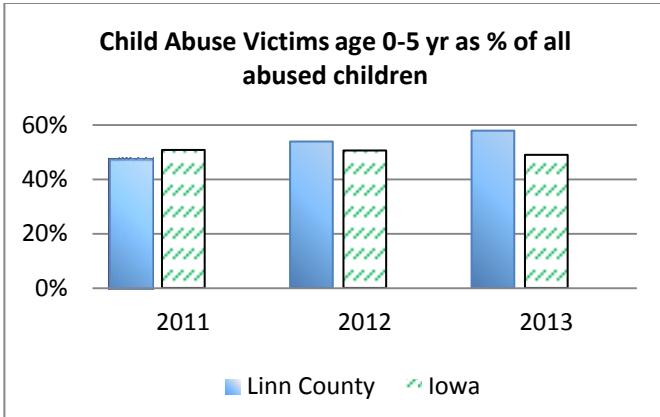
- √ Early Care and Education
- √ Child & Family Resources
- √ Child Health Services
- √ Mental Health Supports

Types of Services supported by Linn County Early Childhood Iowa FY 14

- Child Health Services and Screenings
- On-Site Technical Support for Child Care Providers
- In-Home Visitation & Family Support
- Part Day Preschool for 3 year olds
- Full-day Wraparound Child Care for 0-5 year olds
- Quality Improvements (NAFCC, QRS, ERS)
- Group-based Parent Education
- Child Mental Health & Behavioral Supports
- Child Care Nurse Consultant
- Child Health & Developmental Screens
- Parent-led Behavior Interventions
- Child Care Home & Center Consultants

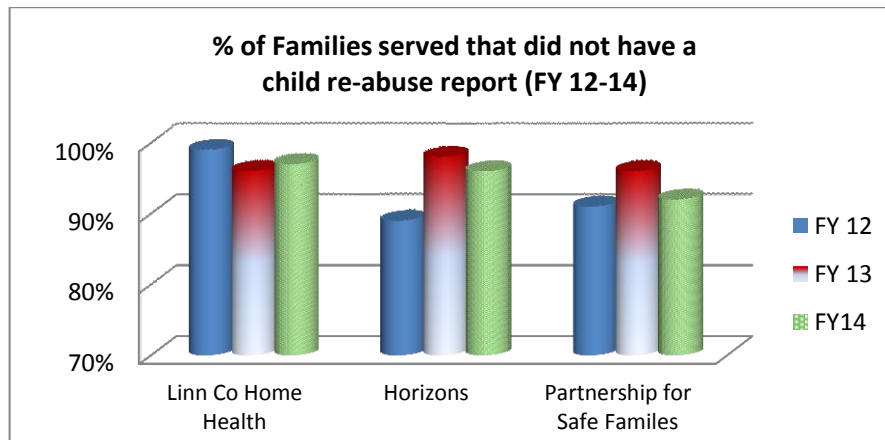
How Do We Measure Community Level Progress in Linn County?

Linn County child abuse data indicates that of all children abused the % of those under age five is increasing. The State of Iowa posted a 2% increase in children under age 5 abused from 2012-2013. However, Linn County data indicates a 9.3% increase in this same category. In order to better focus prevention efforts it is important to note that child neglect (denial of critical care) is the most common factor in child abuse findings.



How Do We Measure Program Progress in Linn County Early Childhood Iowa?

The three (3) in-home visitation programs funded by Linn County ECI provide a menu of support services to increase family stability and reduce child neglect/abuse. The average # of home visits provided per family in FY 14 was 10.2. The table below shows that the overwhelming majority (89-99%) of families served FY 12-14 did not have an incidence of child re-abuse while enrolled in a Linn County Early Childhood Iowa family support program.



What Can You Do To Help?

- Build a sense of community in your neighborhood. Check in on that new or expectant mom/dad or the family next door to let them know you care.
- Refer families seeking support or information to the Linn County Early Childhood Iowa office at 319-892-5721 or www.linncountyearlychildhoodiowa.org
- Increase your awareness of the long term impact of adverse childhood experiences @ www.IowaAces360.org

Other Partners in Linn County that support Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention

- Linn Council on Prevention of Child Abuse
- Iowa DHS, Cedar Rapids Office
- Linn County Decategorization
- United Way of East Central Iowa
- First Five @ HACAP
- Faith community
- ACE's Stakeholder Group
- Reaching Families