

Boston EQUIP

Boston Early Education Quality Improvement Project

1999 Neighborhood Profiles: Mattapan*

DEMOGRAPHICSⁱ

Mattapan is located in the southeastern section of Boston, neighboring Milton, Hyde Park, Roslindale, Roxbury, and Dorchester. The community has a rich history of migration and immigration in which neighborhood associations play a significant role.

Until recently, Mattapan was home to a significant Jewish and Irish population; now the community is predominantly African American and Caribbean, serving as the primary destination for a growing number of Haitian immigrants. The recent influx of Haitian residents has heightened the need for English as a Second Language and adult education services. Mattapan has one of the highest proportion of children in any Boston neighborhood, as well as a large number of female headed households.ⁱⁱ

<i>Total Population:</i>	36,084	<i>Median Income:</i>	\$29,316
<i>Population under 18 years old:</i>	11,089	<i>Percent in Poverty:</i>	24.2%
9.0% Age 0-4	3,243	<i>Percent of Youth in Poverty:</i>	36.1%
21.7% Age 5-17	7,846	<i>Unemployment Rate:</i>	12.5%
<i>Racial/Ethnic Diversity:</i>		<i>Highest Educational Attainment:</i>	
0.9% Asian		31.1% Less Than 12th Grade	
86.6% Black		32.0% High School Graduate	
6.6% Hispanic		24.8% Some College	
0.6% Native American		12.1% College Graduate	
8.3% White			
3.6% Other			

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Capacityⁱⁱⁱ

Program Type	Capacity
Center & Head Start Programs (CHS)	278
School-Age Programs (SACC)	39
Family Child Care Programs (FCC)	274

Capacity by Age Group	
CHS	
Infant	7
Toddler	8
Preschool	263
SACC	
Elementary School	34
Middle School	5

Waitlists

Demand for childcare combined with limitations on capacity often result in long waitlists. **The average number of children on a waitlist at individual centers and Head Start programs is 28. Family Child Care providers reported an average of 10 children on their waitlists.** Citywide, these numbers are 62 and five respectively.^{iv} In June 1999, approximately 285 of Mattapan's children were on the waitlist for a state Office of Child Care Service (OCCS) subsidy, according to OCCS.

Subsidies

Subsidies often provide access to child care for families who cannot afford to pay regular rates. **Per program, the average number of children in Mattapan who use subsidies for Centers and Head Start, School-Age Child Care, and Family Child Care are 36, eight, and six respectively.** Citywide, these numbers are 38, 30, and two respectively.

ACCREDITATION^v

Accreditation is often used as an indicator of the quality in a child care program. **In this neighborhood none of the Centers and Head Start programs are accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and no family child care providers had achieved accreditation by the National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC) at the time of the EQUIP survey.**

TRAINING

Research shows that the quality of programs is directly related to the education and training of their staff.^{vi} Specialized early childhood training for caregivers helps make the most of children’s developmental potential. In Mattapan, **about half (57%) of Center and Head Start staff received college training in the last year; 50% of SACC received college training; and 56% of FCC providers received college level training.**^{vii} All programs have exceeded the EQUIP benchmark, but FCC is the only program type that is not higher than the citywide average.

While 13% of CHS teachers and lead teachers represented in EQUIP survey responses held a BA or more, none of the SACC group leaders or FCC providers had one.

Staff Receiving College Credit				Staff with BA or more		
	Mattapan	Boston	EQUIP Benchmark		Mattapan	Boston
CHS	57%	41%	43%	CHS	13%	29%
SACC	50%	50%	43%	SACC	0%	55%
FCC	56%	57%	43%	FCC	0%	12%

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

Parents play a significant role in the education of their children. Many programs encourage opportunities for parents and providers to work together not only in activities inside the classroom like assisting teachers or participating in celebrations, but in the leadership of the program through activities like hiring staff, evaluating programs, and serving on governing boards. **Averaging the parent engagement on a number of activities, an overall score indicates 22% of parents are involved in Centers and Head Starts, and 4% of parents are involved in School-Age Child Care.** Parent participation in CHS and SACC are below both the citywide average and the EQUIP benchmark.

Average Parent Engagement			
	Mattapan	Boston	EQUIP Benchmark
CHS	22%	26%	50%
SACC	4%	16%	50%

Top Three Parent Engagement Activities	
CHS	
Celebrations, Holidays, Festivals	66%
Parent/Teacher Conferences	62%
Program Evaluation	30%
SACC	
Celebrations, Holidays, Festivals	20%
Parent Groups	10%
DTA Related Activities	10%

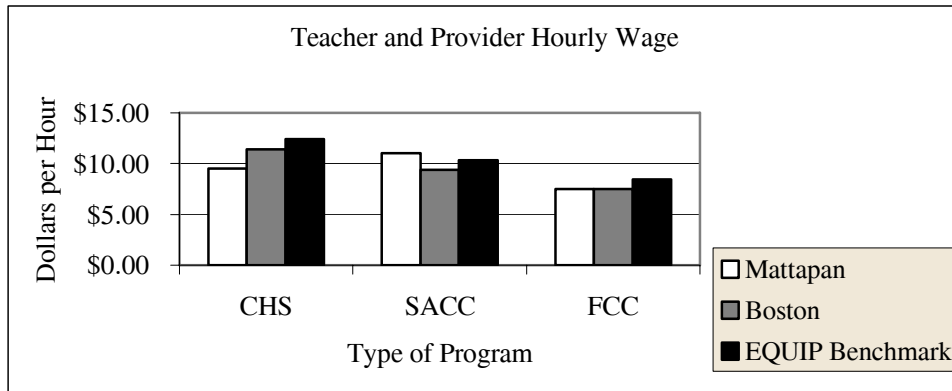
SALARIES

Teacher and Provider Hourly Wage

Low salaries are often linked to high staff turnover rates and lower quality of child care. Higher salaries generally correlate with higher levels of education, professional training, and a commitment to staff

	Mattapan	Boston	EQUIP Benchmark
CHS	\$9.52	\$11.32	\$12.40
SACC	\$11.00	\$9.41	\$10.35
FCC	\$7.48	\$7.47	\$8.46

retention. **The average hourly wages for CHS, SACC, and FCC are \$9.52, \$11.00, and \$7.48 respectively.** SACC and FCC average hourly wages in Mattapan are both higher than the citywide averages, but SACC is the only program type that has exceeded the EQUIP benchmark.



Benefits and Health Care

Another indicator of a program’s commitment to its staff is the level of benefits offered. **In this neighborhood, 50% of Center and Head Start programs did not offer health care coverage to full-time employees.**

For FCC providers, benefits are less commonly available. Paid sick time was frequently cited—one third of the responding providers had it through their own FCC business. **56% of family child care providers, however, reported having no health care coverage.**

Turnover

Continuous changes in personnel limit efforts to build stable environments and relationships for children and their families. **Centers and Head Start programs reported 10% annual staff turnover, substantially lower than citywide averages of 23%.^{viii}**

	Mattapan	Boston
CHS	10%	23%

FACILITIES

Physical environment is important in a program’s ability to deliver quality care. A safe, well-maintained, inviting, and well-designed environment contributes to physical, emotional, and cognitive development in children.

Closures

Program closures due to unforeseen circumstances such as building problems place a burden on parents to seek alternative child care while providers potentially face lost revenue and the prospect of losing families. In addition, closures due to facility problems are an indicator of the need for repairs and general maintenance. **None of the Centers and Head Starts or School-Age Child Care programs reported having to close due to facility problems in the past year.**

Expand, Relocate, Renovate

When Centers and Head Start programs in Mattapan were asked if they would like to expand, renovate, or relocate, 75% wanted to expand, 75% wanted to renovate, and 75% wanted to relocate.

	Mattapan	Boston
Expand	75%	63%
Renovate	75%	78%
Relocate	75%	39%

Computers

Caregivers can use computers for both instructional and administrative purposes. They can selectively choose appropriate material to help children acquire basic cognitive skills; Furthermore, computers can perform a variety of administrative tasks like budgeting or planning. **All of the centers and Head Starts and School-Age Child Care programs and 44% of the family child care providers reported owning and using a computer.**

Top Three Computer Uses

- Word Processing
- In the Classroom with Children
- Reports on Children

What is Boston EQUIP?

The purpose of the Boston Early Education Quality Improvement Project (EQUIP) is to measure and help improve quality for the 25,000 children and families that use Boston's public and private early childhood and school age care and education programs. In the Spring of 1999, Boston EQUIP surveyed licensed center-based, Head Start and Boston Public School early childhood programs, school-age child care programs, and a representative sample of licensed family child care providers.

A total of 264 of Boston's early childhood and school-age programs returned surveys.

For more information, contact Boston EQUIP at 617-695-0700 x229.

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* Unless otherwise identified, all data is from 1999 Boston EQUIP Third Inventory. Analysis by Alyssa Na'im. Return rates in Mattapan were: 80% for CHS; 50% for SACC; and 56% for FCC.

ⁱ Statistics are from Rolf Goetze. *Facts about Boston's Neighborhoods: 16 Neighborhoods and 69 Neighborhood Statistical Areas.* February 1995.

ⁱⁱ From *A United Way Neighborhood View.* United Way of Massachusetts Bay

ⁱⁱⁱ School-age capacity numbers are projected from 1999 Boston EQUIP data. All other capacity numbers are from the Massachusetts Office of Child Care Services 1998 licensing records.

^{iv} Not enough data was collected from SACC on this item so similar analyses could not be performed.

^v CHS Accreditation is from the National Association for the Education of Young Children. FCC Accreditation and CDA numbers are from the National Association for Family Child Care.

^{vi} Suzanne W. Helburn (editor). *Cost, Quality, and Child Outcomes in Child Care Centers.* June 1995.

^{vii} This only represents group leaders, none of the programs provided data on assistant group leaders.

^{viii} Not enough data was provided by SACC in this neighborhood, so similar analysis could not be performed.