EPISCOPAL Children's Services

BELIEVE. ACHIEVE. SOAR.

Community Assessment 2019
Head Start and Early Head Start

Duval County

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Executive Summary

The Head Start/Early Head Start Community Assessment for Duval County is updated annually to consider information that helps programs to better serve children and families in our community.

The 2019 Community Assessment identified the following:

- **Community Characteristics** of Duval County
    - Population – The county's population has grown by 4.9% over the past 5 years, less than the state, but more than the nation.
    - Demographics – Median age has increased yet remains lower than the state or the county. The racial composition is predominantly Caucasian (60%) followed by African-American at 30%. The economy is strong with increasing incomes and decreasing unemployment, with strong job growth, particularly for full-time jobs.
    - Housing – Rental housing availability has decreased, with 93% of all units currently occupied. Duval County has reduced the percentage of rental households that are cost-burdened, defined as paying 35% or more of their total income for rent.
    - Transportation – Like many areas in Florida, public transportation is used by a small percentage of the population. Duval County has increased the use of public transportation from 1.7% to 1.8%, compared to the Florida average of 1.9%. Fewer public transportation options increases pressure for households to have vehicles available for work and other necessities.

- **Poverty** trends for Duval County
    - General population – Poverty has decreased from 17% to 15% overall, which reflects the improved economy.
    - Young Children – Despite the improvement in overall poverty, 26% of young children - those 5 years of age and younger – live in households earning less than the Federal Poverty Level.
    - Demographics for People in Poverty – Poverty rates are higher than the general population for people who are of minority race and/or ethnicity, households headed by single parents and adults who do not have a high school diploma or equivalent.

- **Key Populations** for children with high needs for HS/EHS services
    - Children experiencing Homelessness – The percentage of children experiencing homelessness, including those experiencing housing instability such as living in a motel, continues to increase.
    - Children in Foster Care – The number of young children in foster care is down by 5%, which differs from the Florida average of a decrease of 12%.
    - Children with Disabilities – Young children who are receiving disability services continues to increase.
    - Households receiving Public Assistance – Duval County has a higher percentage of households receiving public assistance than the state and the nation.

- People who are fluent in English – Duval County has a high percentage of the population who are fluent in English than the state or nation. For those who do speak another language, Spanish is the most common.
- Eligible Children by Age – Births covered by Medicaid is a proxy for children who are eligible by age.

- **Birth Trends** of Infants and Mothers
  - Births to Teen Mothers – The percentage of births to young mothers (15 to 19) has dropped, but at a lower rate than the state.
  - Low Birth Weights – Infants with low weights at birth has increased over time, which is often associated with a lack of prenatal care.
  - Infant Deaths – The number of infants who have died has increased from 110 in 2014 to 123 in 2018.
  - Births with adequate Prenatal Care – The percentage of mothers with adequate prenatal care decreased.

- **Health Trends** for Duval County
  - Adult Physical and Mental Health – Adults report similar heath in Duval County as the state average, and the most prevalent health risk factors are being overweight or obese or smoking.
  - Health Provider Availability – Duval County has increased physician and dentist availability over the past 5 years.

- **Nutrition Needs** for Children and Families
  - Food Insecurity – Duval County, like other areas, has improved in food security, identified as reliable access to enough affordable, nutritious food.
  - Special Supplemental Nutrition program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) – Duval County has reduced results in serving eligible women and children over time.

- **Childcare Trends** for Children and Families
  - Availability – Availability of care for infants through pre-kindergarten is lower than the state average as compared to school-age children.
  - Need – The need exceeds capacity, with an unmet need of more than 4,500 young children needing care.
  - Quality – Providers who have obtained a quality rating comprise 32% of the total.
  - Kindergarten Non-Promotions – The percentage of children who do not advance to first grade after kindergarten has decreased from 5.2% to 4.1% but is higher than the state average of 3.2%.
  - Cost – Childcare costs for a typical family – 2 adults, 1 school-age child, 1 preschool child – consumes 21% of the household survival budget.
  - Cost Assistance – The community has made progress with the number of vouchers available for childcare cost assistance, increasing from 7,420 in 2014 to 10,282 in 2018.
  - Parent Schedules – Parents need care for children when working or attending school or job training. A higher percentage of parents with

children under 6 are working than the general population, but a smaller percentage are in school or training.

- **Resources for Children and Families,** including resources for Children with Disabilities, United Way 211 referrals for Social Services, Housing, Early Learning Coalitions and the Department for Children and Families.

Introduction

Episcopal Children's Services provides Early Head Start under our grant from the Office of Head Start (04CH011163) serving Duval County.

- Early Head Start funded enrollment – 309

Early Head Start is a free program for children of families with low-incomes, providing comprehensive early learning in both center-based and home-based settings. This successful program helps ensure children's readiness for school and increases parental knowledge in children's growth and development. Episcopal Children's Services Early Head Start program provides full-day, full-year center-based and home-based early learning to pregnant women and children birth to three years of age. The program also provides additional family supports such as literacy workshops and parenting skills training and targeted attention on meeting specialized needs regarding children with disabilities, behavioral challenges and health concerns.

The Early Head Start program provides inclusive services in the areas of health, mental health, nutrition, disabilities and parent and community engagement, in addition to early childhood education as part of a comprehensive approach to school readiness. All children are screened for developmental progress, health, dental, vision and hearing. Early Head Start offers a nutrition assessment and provides daily nutritious snacks and meals. Any identified concerns are referred to the appropriate professional for treatment. The Early Head Start staff understand that to support the child, they must support the whole family and parent involvement in the classroom and the program is highly encouraged. Parents are their children's first teachers and the staff work with the parents to understand and care for the children enrolled in our programs.

Early Head Start grantees are required to conduct a community-wide needs assessment at least once over the five-year grant period and update annually. The purpose of the Community Needs Assessment is to gather information to better understand the people served through the Early Head Start program, and to design program interventions that meet their needs. The data from the Community Needs Assessment will be used to design the program—including how children are selected into the program, what services are offered, and where program services are provided.

Community Characteristics

Geography

Duval County is located in Northeast Florida.

Governing Structure

Duval County and the City of Jacksonville were consolidated in 1968, which eliminated any separate county operations. The Mayor and the City Council are elected officials, serving four-year terms.

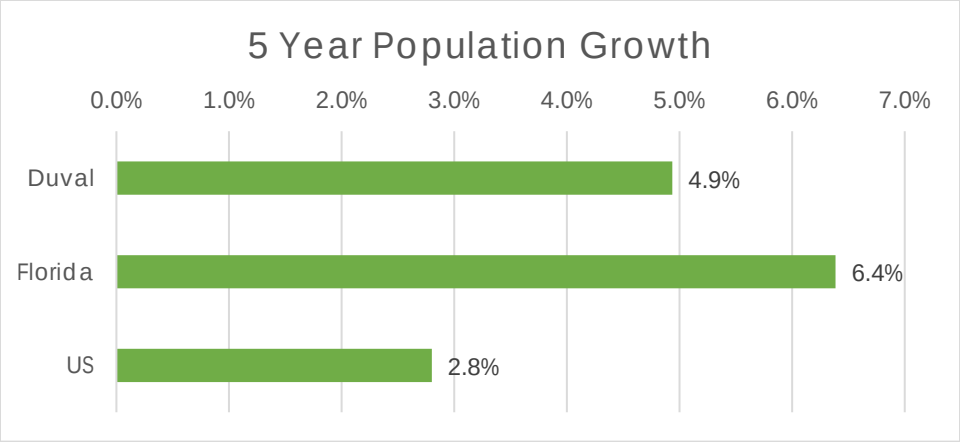
Population

Population of County

Population		
	2014	2018
Duval	880,750	924,229

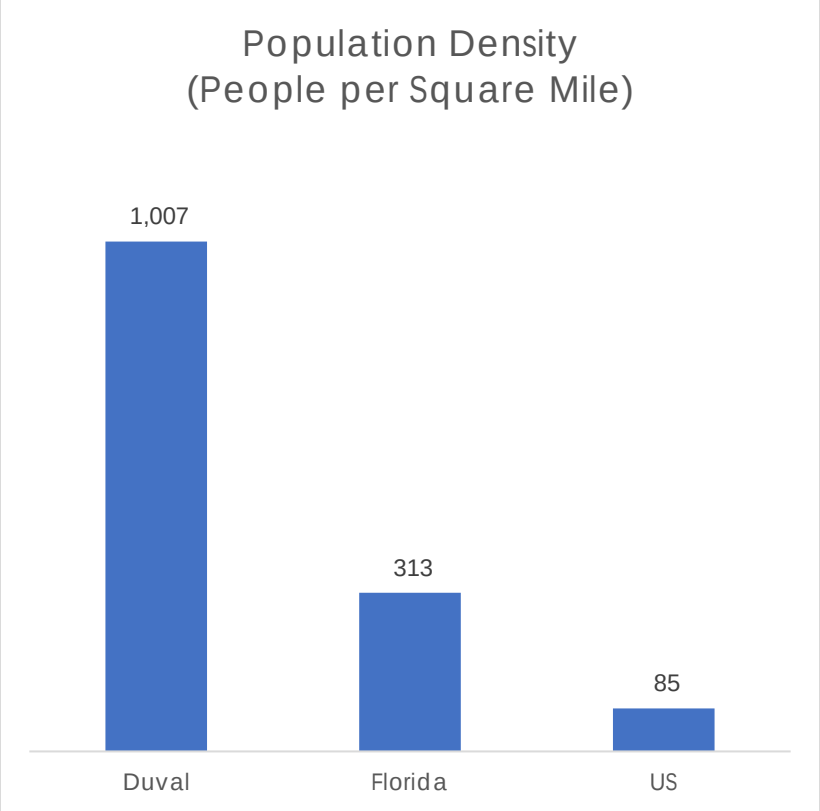
Population Growth

Duval County has grown more than the country, but less than the state average.



Population Density

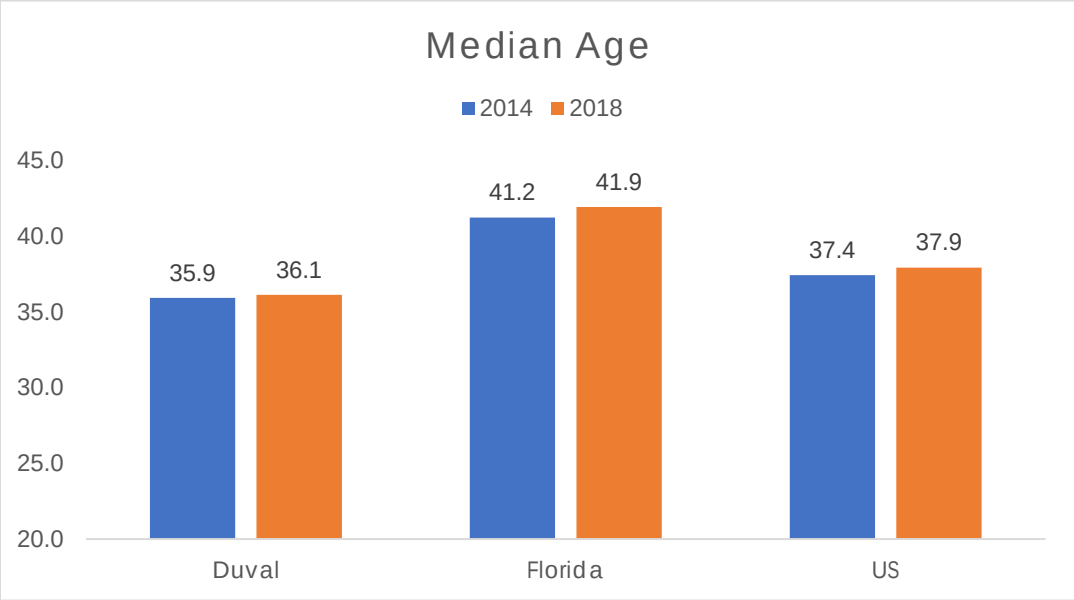
Duval is much more dense than Florida and the U.S.

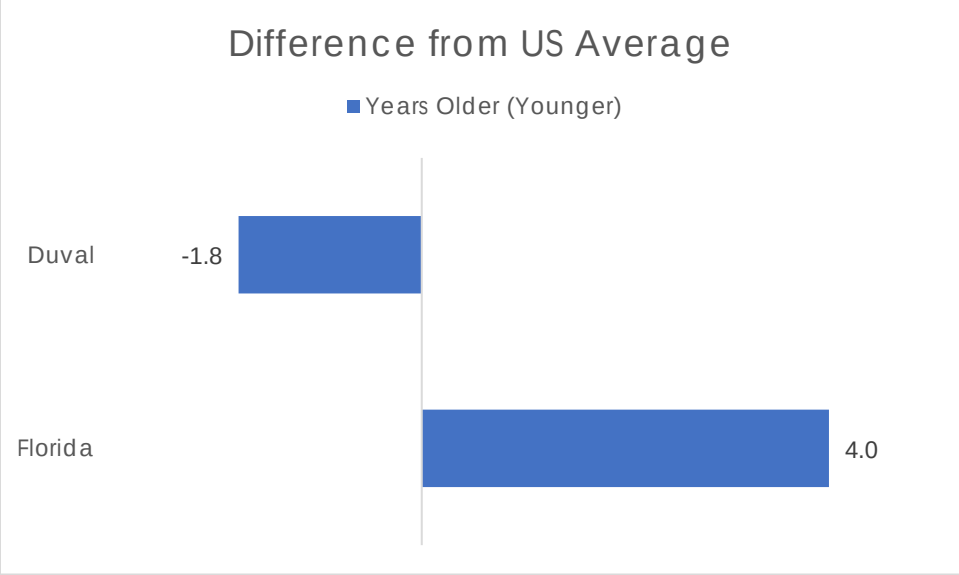


Demographics

Age

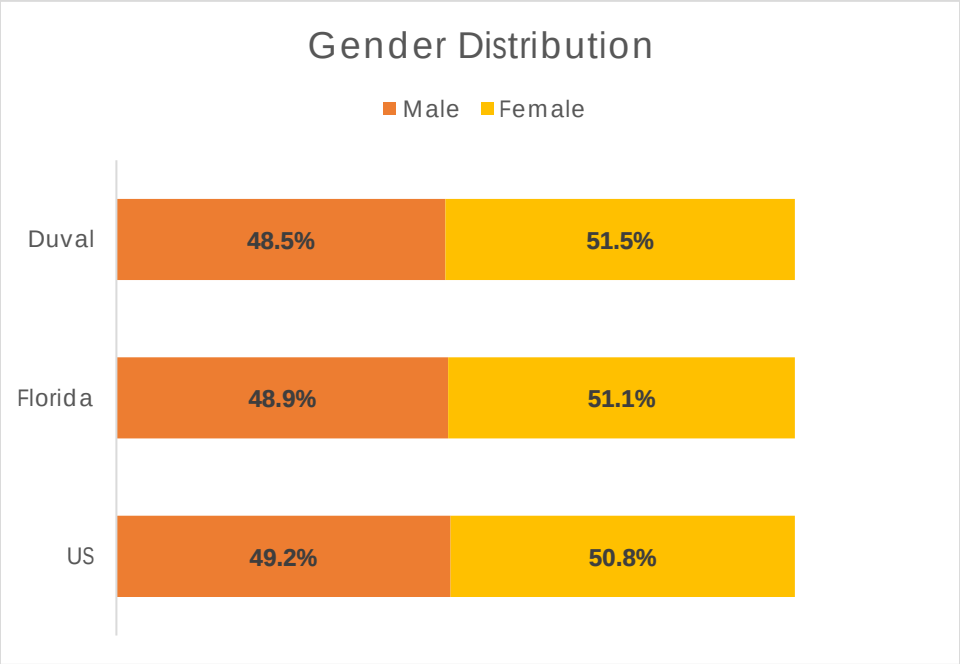
The national population is aging as seen with the increase in the median age of the population, where half are younger, and half are older. The first chart shows the change in median age over the past 5 years, while the second chart highlights the differences in median age from the national average.





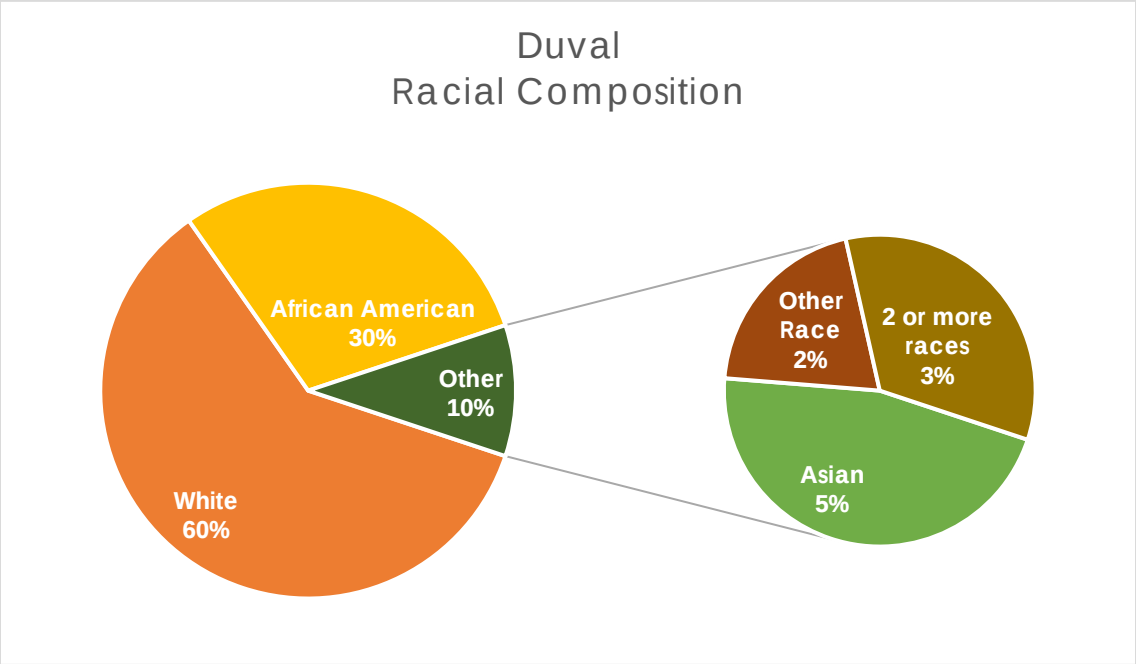
Gender

Duval County's percentage of female residents is slightly higher than Florida and the U.S.

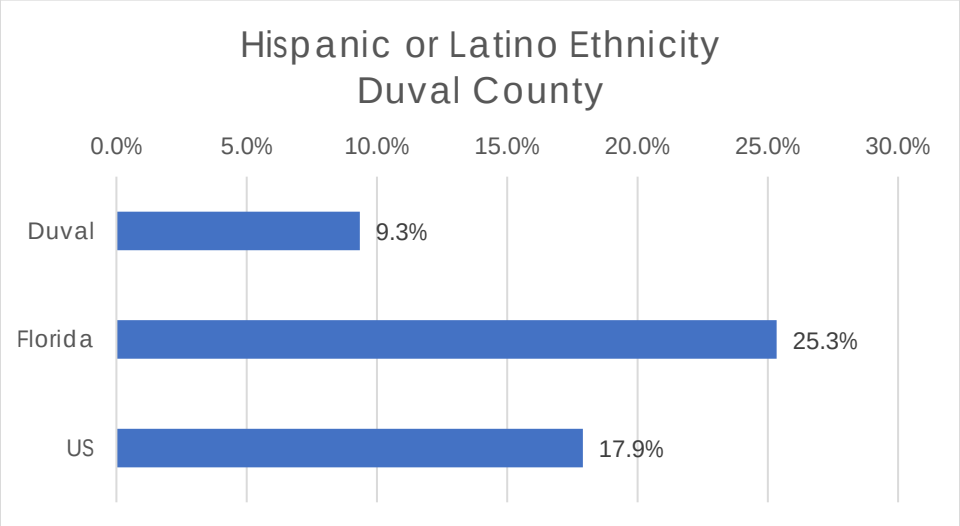


Race and Ethnicity

While Duval County still has a majority of white residents, the county is more diverse than the state, which has 76% of people identifying as white.



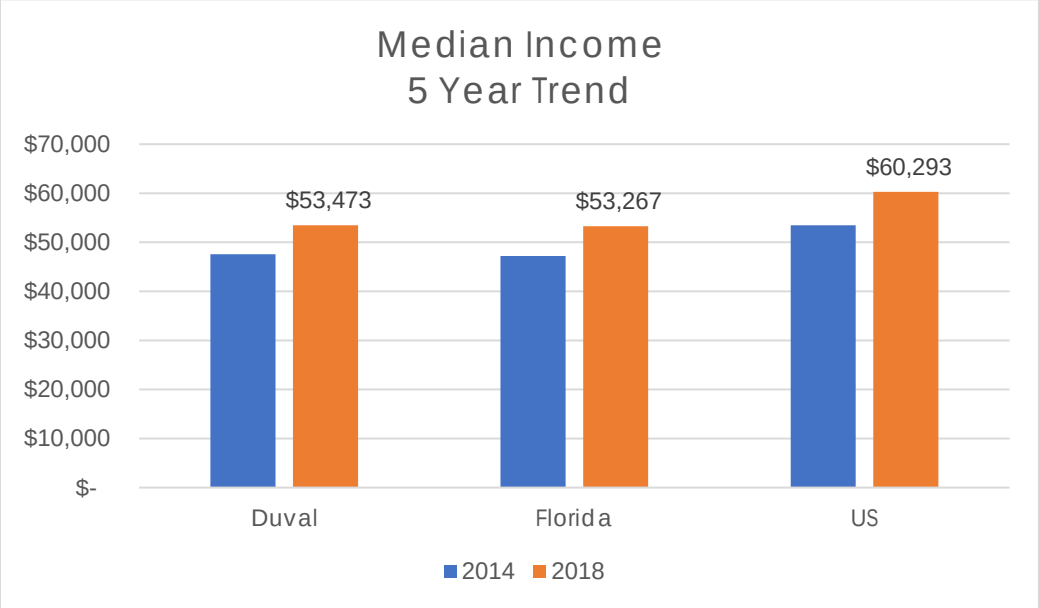
Duval County has a lower percentage of people with Hispanic or Latino ethnicity that the state or the country.



Economy

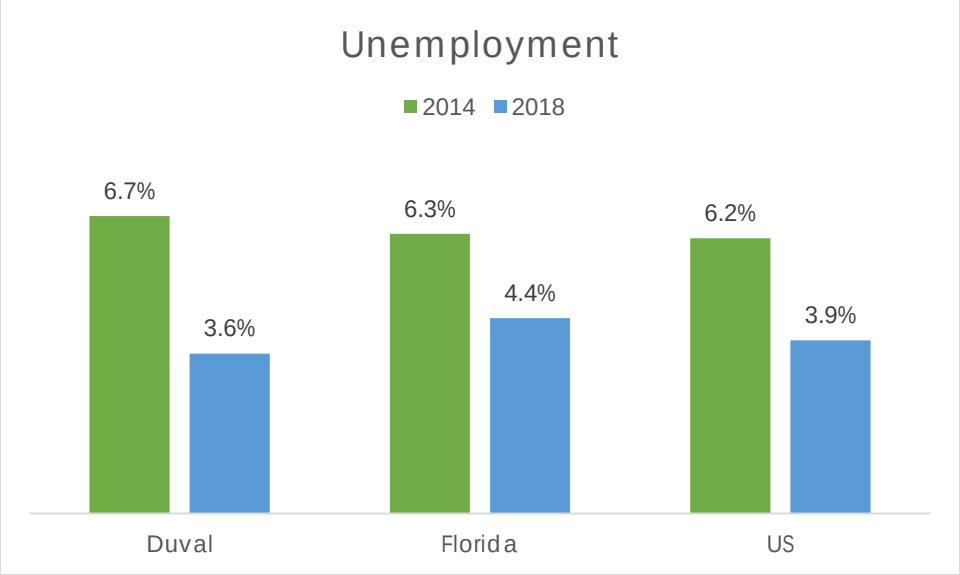
Median Income

Median household income is the most common economic measure for financial health of a community as it identifies the level where half of households earn more, and half earn less. Median income has increased over the five year period, showcasing the economic recovery over time.



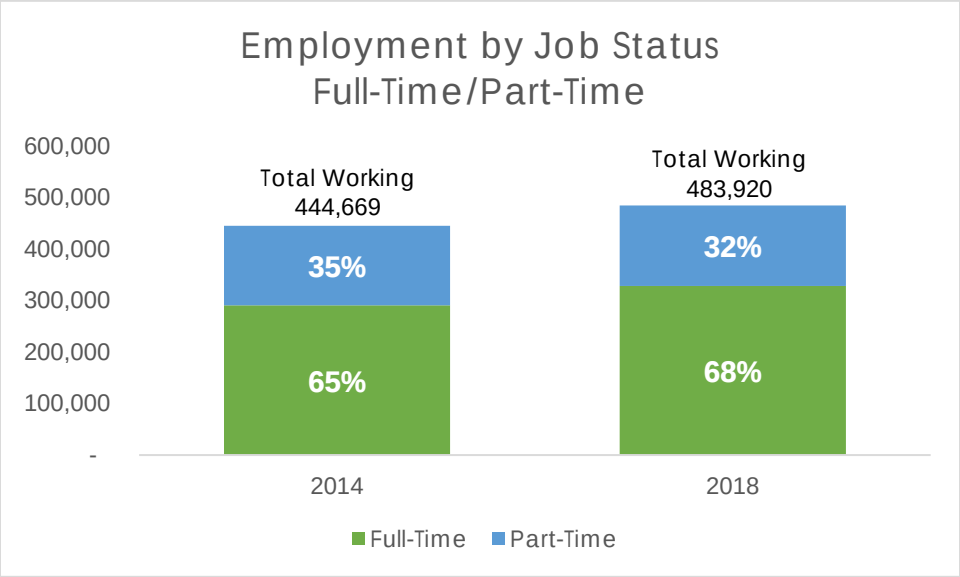
Unemployment

Unemployment has dropped, and is lower than Florida or the U.S.



Job Growth

The number of people employed has also grown. Full-time jobs are increasing faster than part-time jobs, with the percentage of people working full time now up to 68% of those working.



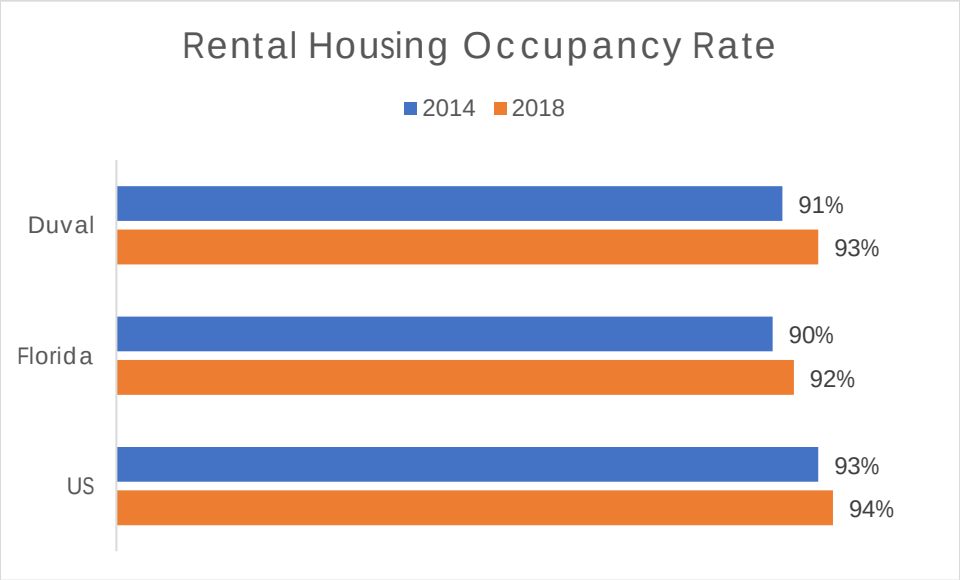
The table identifies the changes in full and part-time jobs by county.

	Full-Time 2014	Full-Time 2018	Change	Part-Time 2014	Part-Time 2018	Change
Duval	290,353	327,900	37,547	154,316	156,020	1,704

Housing

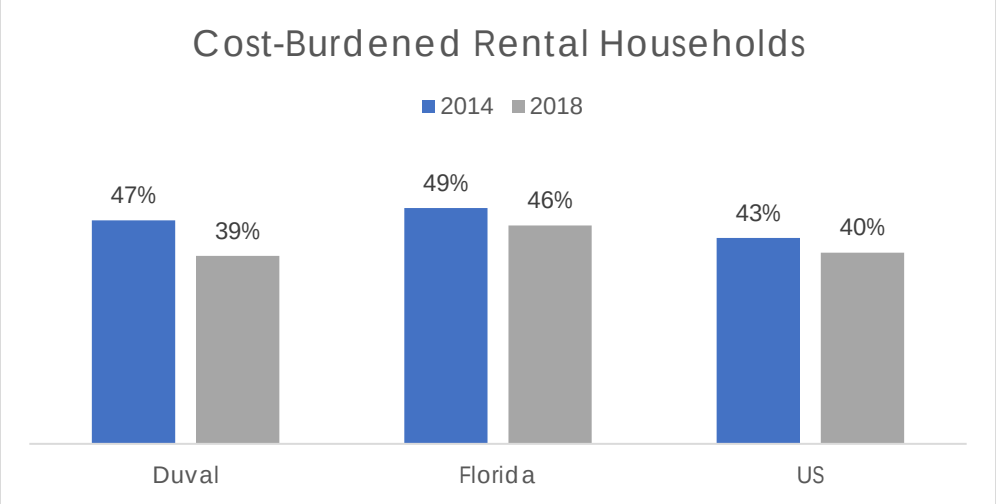
Availability

High occupancy rates signal intense competition for rental housing, which often leads to increases in rental costs.



Affordability

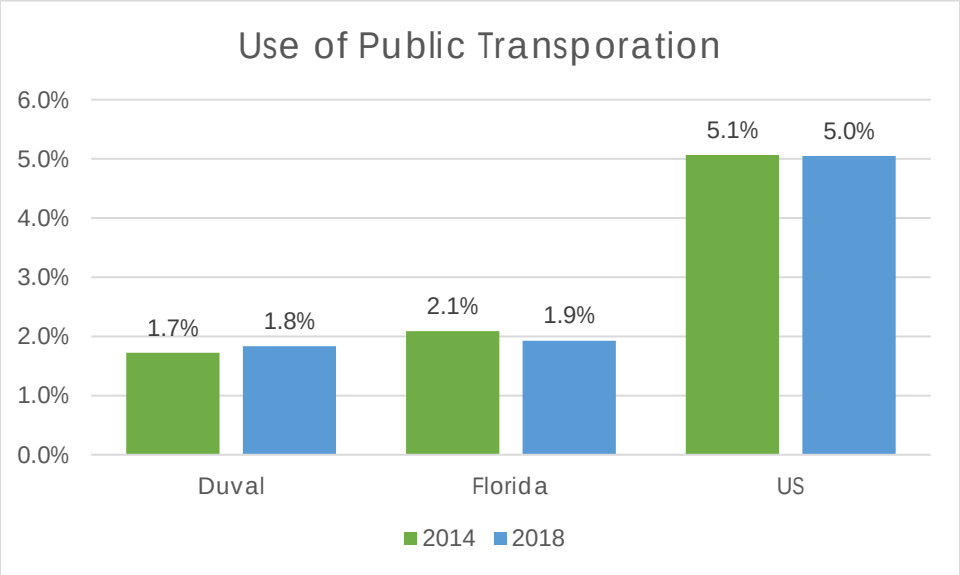
A household paying 35% or more of their total income for rent is cost-burdened because it limits the dollars available for other necessities. Duval County is reducing the percentage of rental households with rents consuming a disproportionate amount of income.

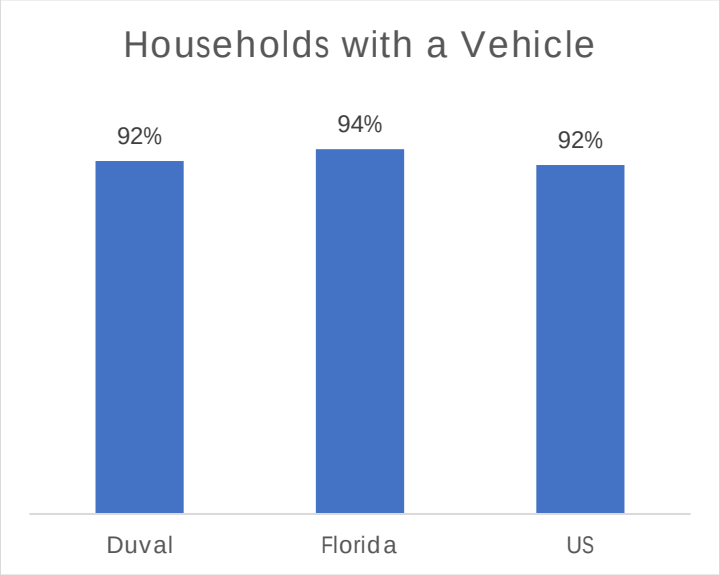


Transportation

Public Transportation Utilization

Duval County's use of public transportation is increasing, yet the graph identifies that public transportation is used by a very small portion of the population, which creates pressures for households to have a vehicle available for travel to work, school and other necessities.



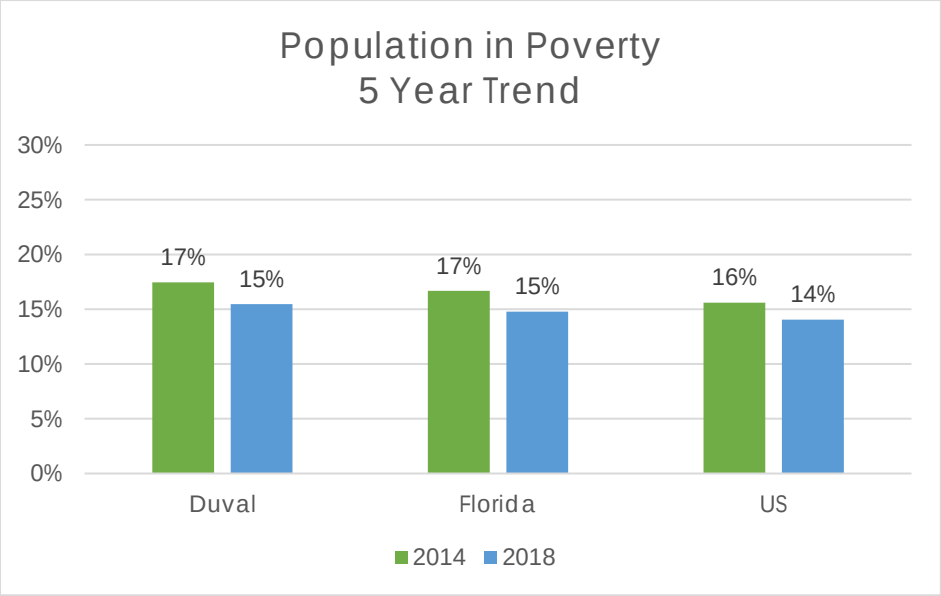


Poverty

Trends

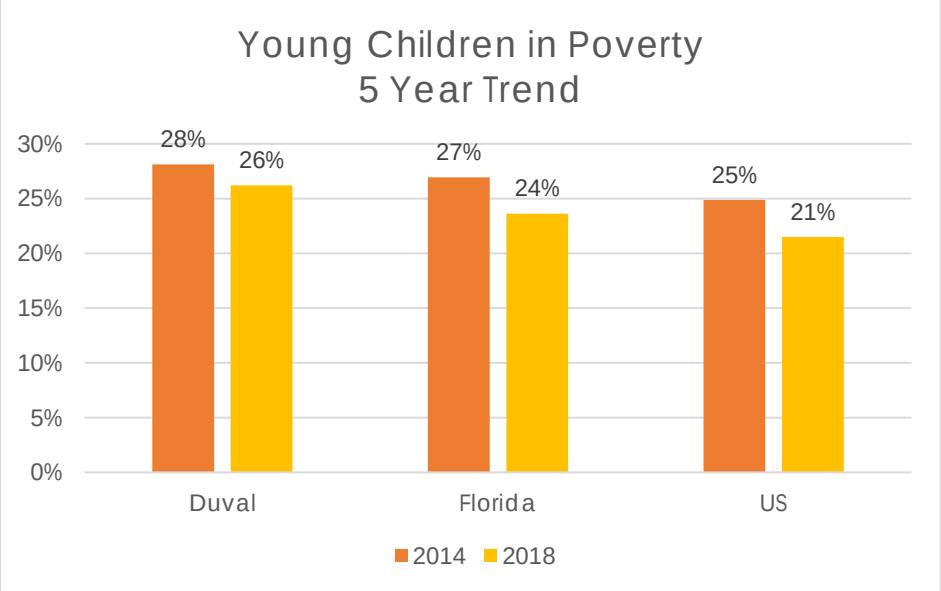
Total Population

The strengthening economy is seen with an overall drop in the percentage of population in poverty for the region.



Young Children

The rate of poverty for young children – 5 and under – is much higher than the general population.

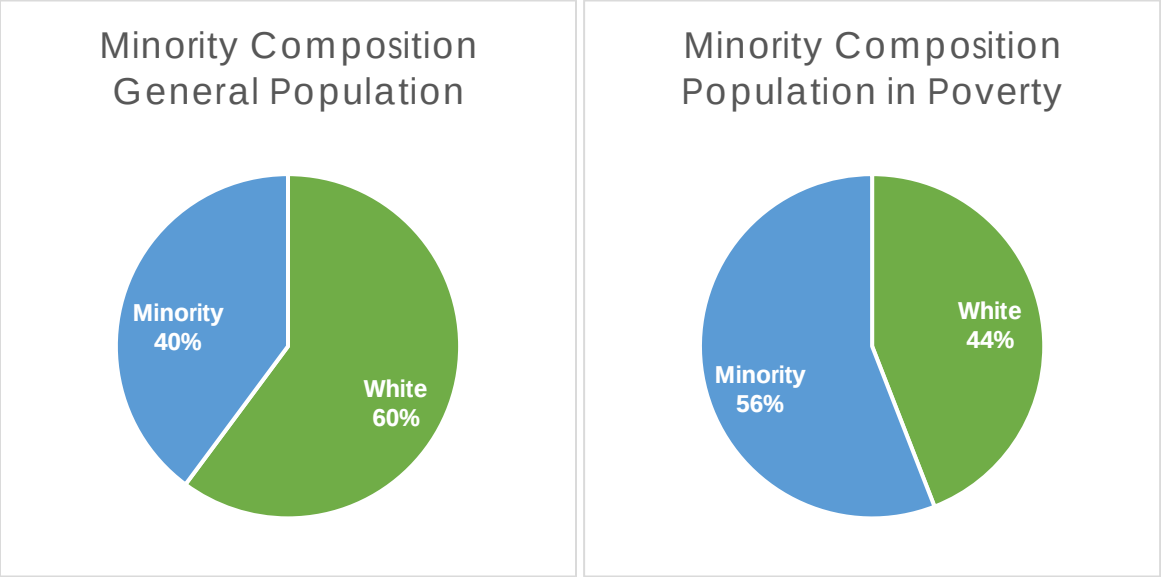


Demographics and Poverty

Differences are seen between the poverty rates for the general population and key demographics.

Race/Ethnicity

Minorities are disproportionately represented for the population in poverty versus the population. Minorities are 40% of the total population, yet account for 56% of the population in poverty.

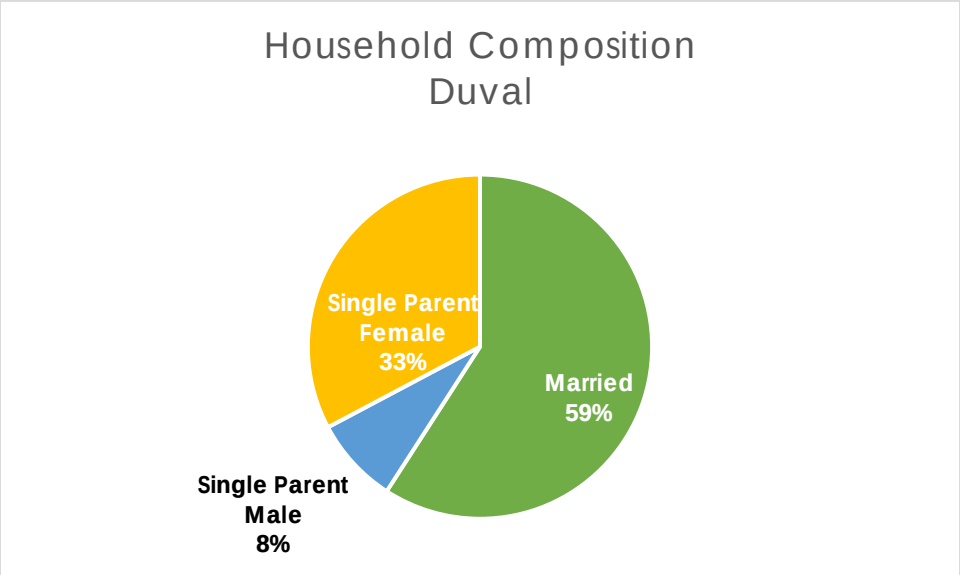


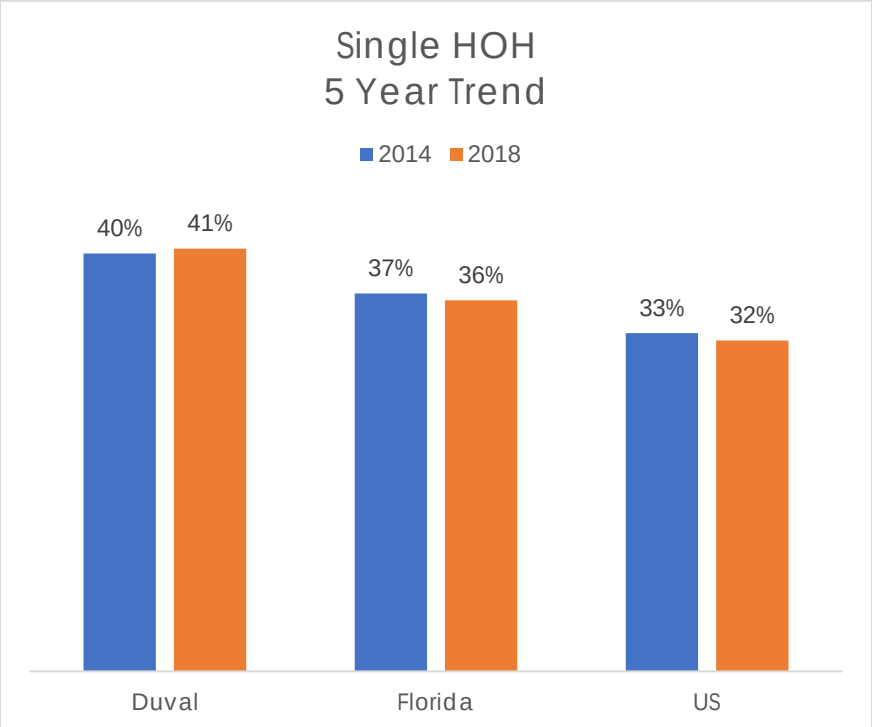
The table shows the breakdown of poverty rates for the largest minority populations – African-Americans and Hispanic.

Duval			
	Population	# in Poverty	Poverty Rate
Total	903,209	139,758	15%
African-American	267,660	65,422	24%
Hispanic	84,370	15,824	19%

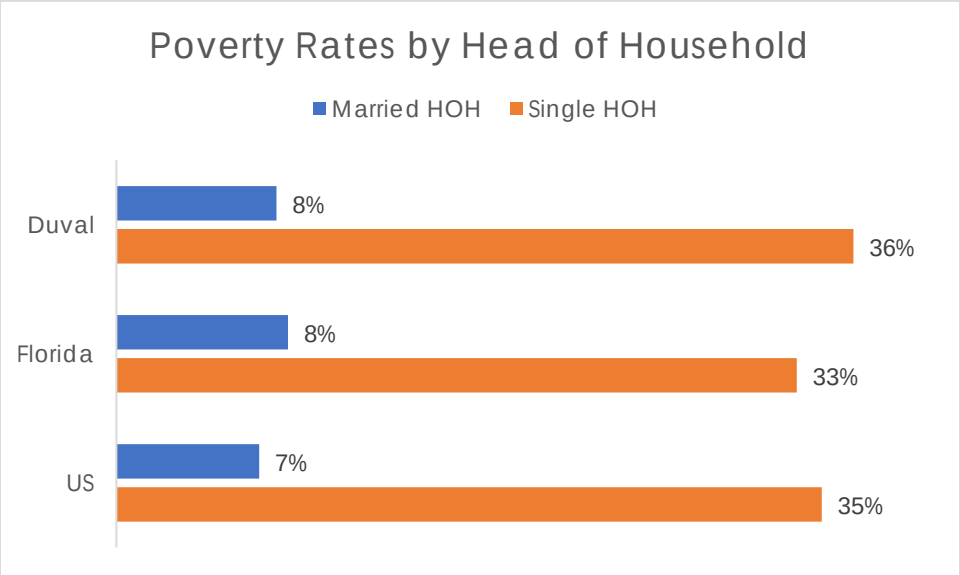
Marital Status

While 59% of children live in households with two married parents, the second chart identifies the changes in the percentage of households headed by single parents.



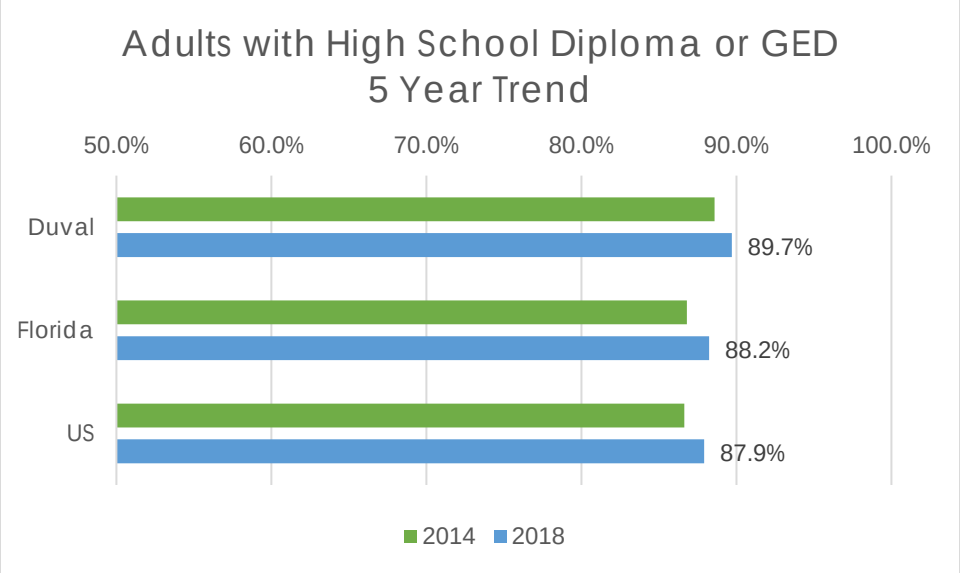


Poverty rates differ dramatically for single Heads of Household. Divorce or single parenthood results in the adults maintaining two households instead of one, and families headed by a single parent tend to struggle emotionally as well as financially.

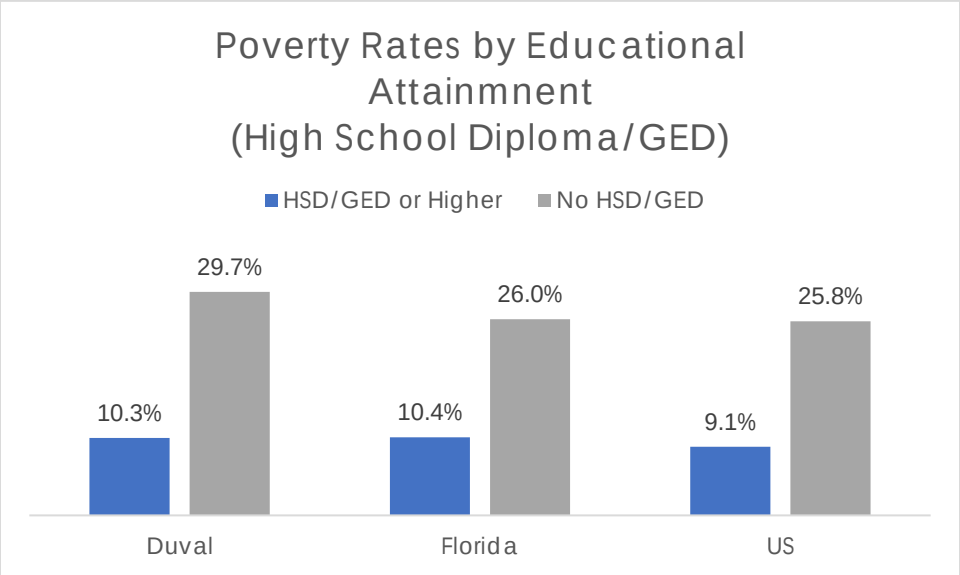


Educational Attainment

The percentage of adults who have a High School Diploma or GED equivalent or higher education continues to increase over time.



Adults who do not have a minimum of a High School Diploma or equivalent have higher levels of poverty.



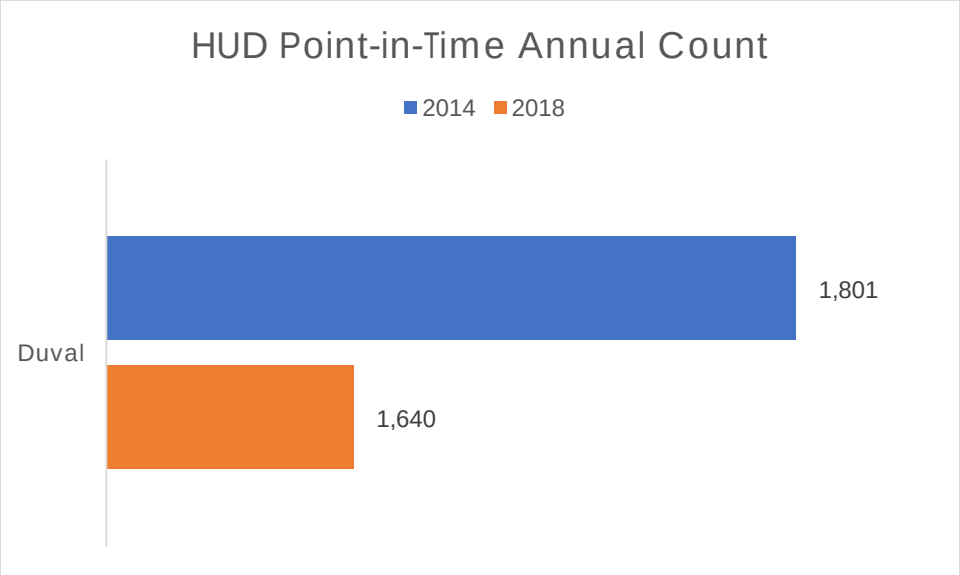
Poverty Rates by Educational Attainment (High School Diploma/GED)		
	HSD/GED or Higher	**No HSD/GED**
Duval	10.3%	29.7%
Florida	10.4%	26.0%
US	9.1%	25.8%

Key Populations

Children Experiencing Homelessness

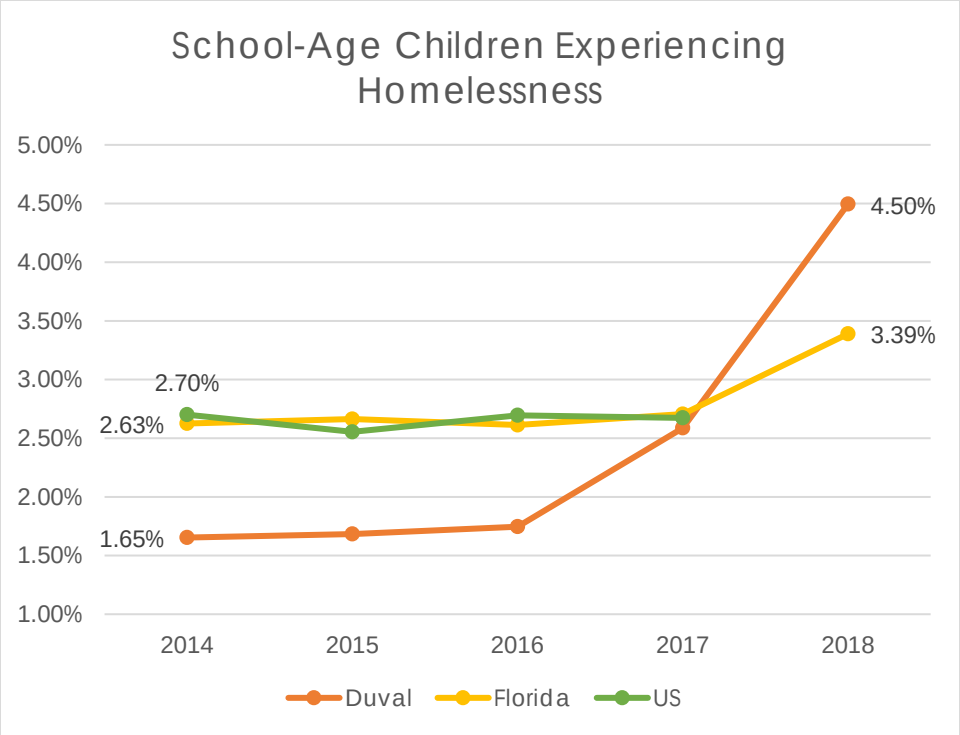
HUD Point-in-Time

There are two sources of data to estimate homelessness with different approaches and definitions of homelessness. The HUD Point-in-Time Count is a one-night annual census that counts people either on the street or in an emergency shelter. Because homeless families are fearful of having children removed into foster care, they are often missed in these counts. HUD Point-in-Time data is for all ages, both adults and children. The graph identifies that this count has gone down over time.



McKinney-Vento

Head Start uses the definition from the McKinney-Vento Act, which requires public schools to collect and report data on students experiencing homelessness. The definition is more expansive and includes students who are living in any type of non-permanent housing, such as living in motels, staying with friends or staying with other family members. Data is counted throughout the school year.

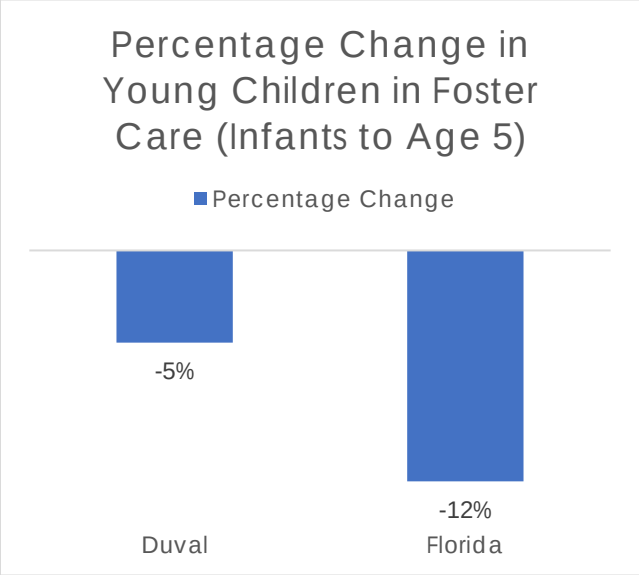


Students experiencing Homelessness			
	2014	**2018**	**Percentage Change**
Duval	2,111	5,825	176%
Florida	71,446	96,028	34%

Children in Foster Care

Young children in foster care are increasing in some areas, even though the numbers are decreasing at a state level. The table shows the numbers and percentage change, with the graph showing the differences in percentage changes for the county and the state.

	2014	2018	Percentage Change
Duval	470	447	-5%
Florida	9,553	8,381	-12%

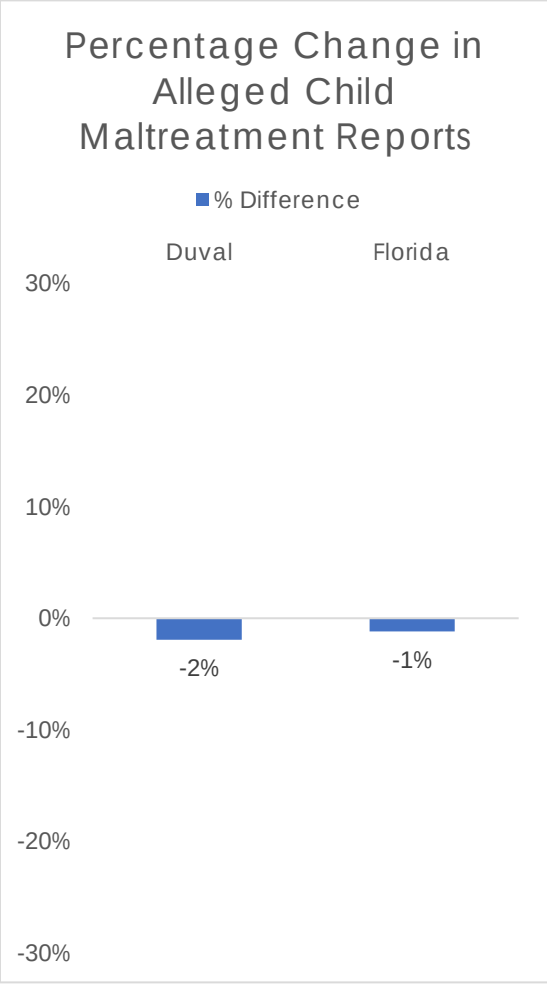


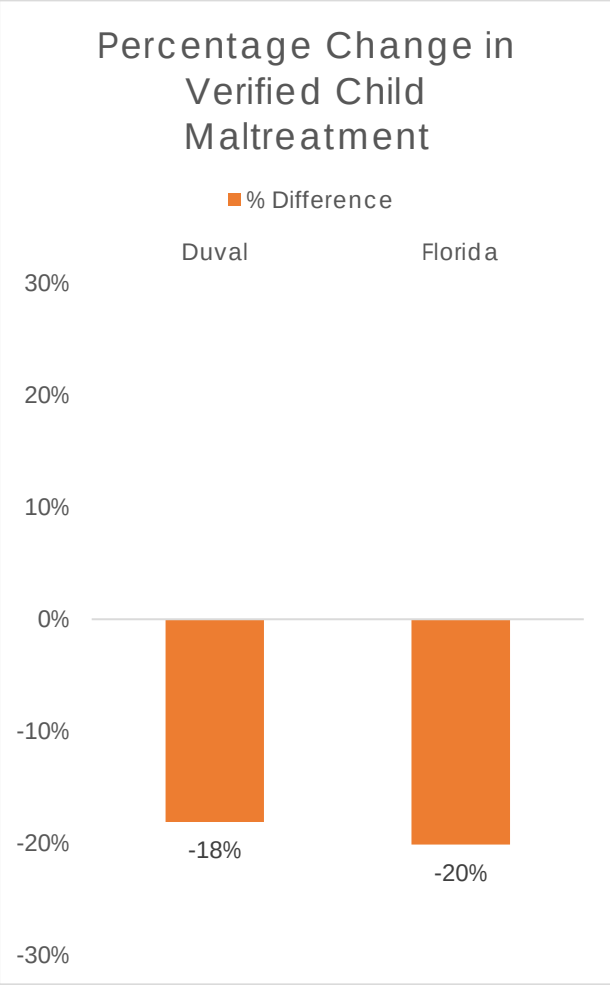
Maltreatment Reports

When child maltreatment is reported, the case is investigated to see if the maltreatment can be verified. The graphs and tables show changes over time.

Reports of Child Maltreatment				
	2014	2018	Difference	% Difference
Duval	27,626	27,093	-533	-2%
Florida	447,720	442,423	-5,297	-1%

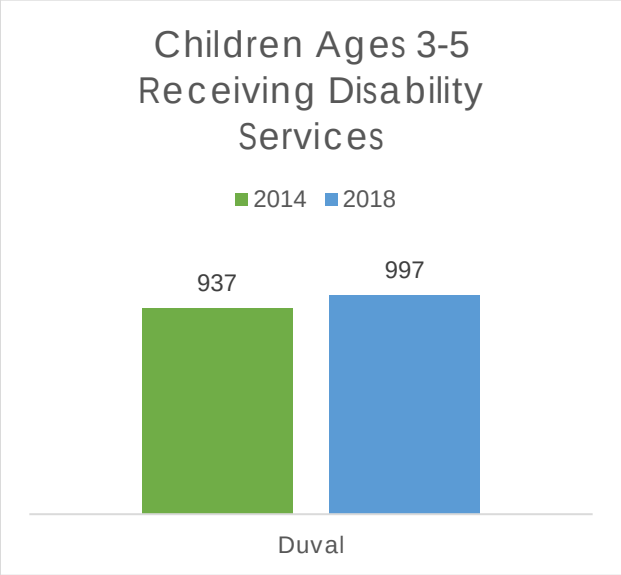
Verified Child Maltreatment				
	2014	2018	Difference	% Difference
Duval	2,800	2,293	-507	-18%
Florida	46,231	36,924	-9,307	-20%

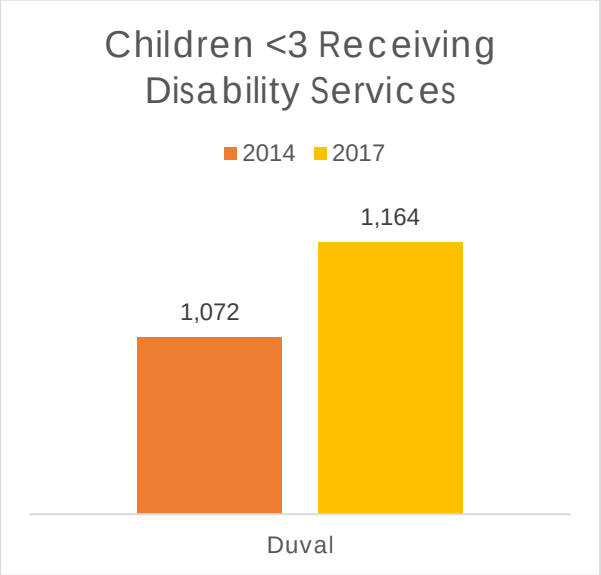




Children with Disabilities

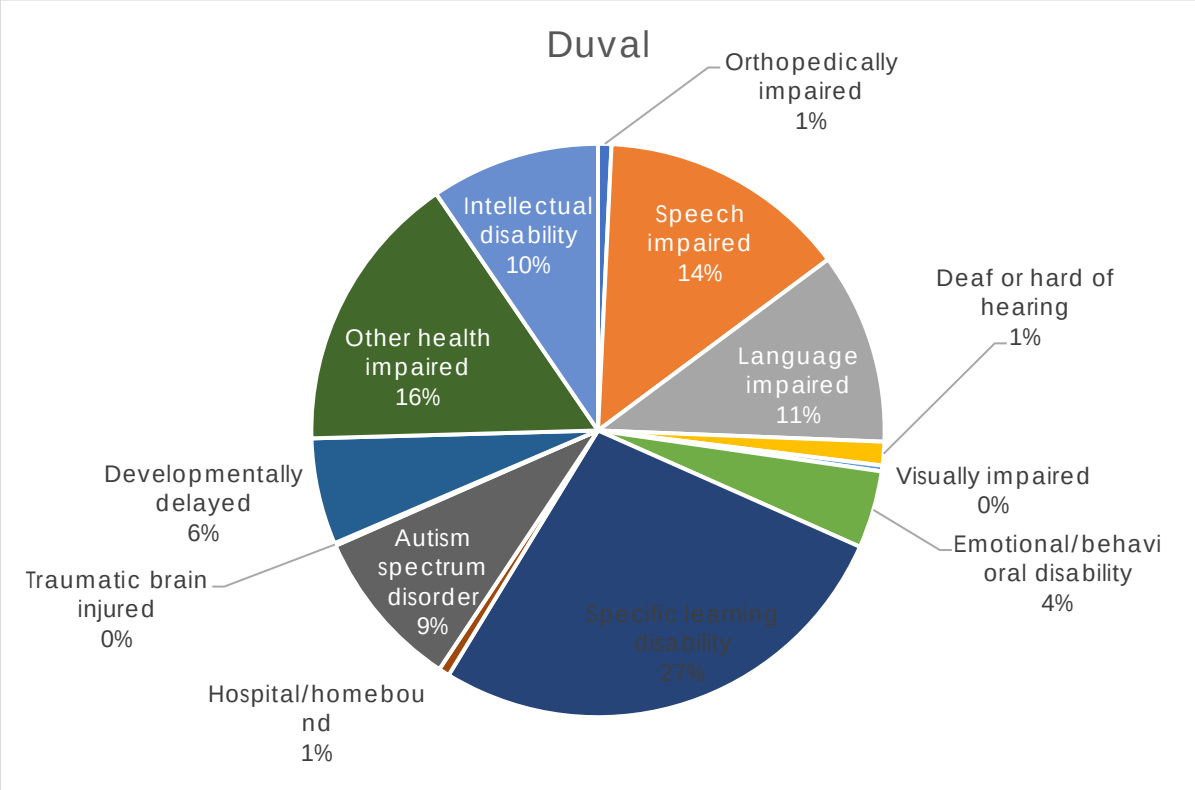
Children with disabilities are prioritized for enrollment. There are increases in young children of all ages receiving services for disabilities.





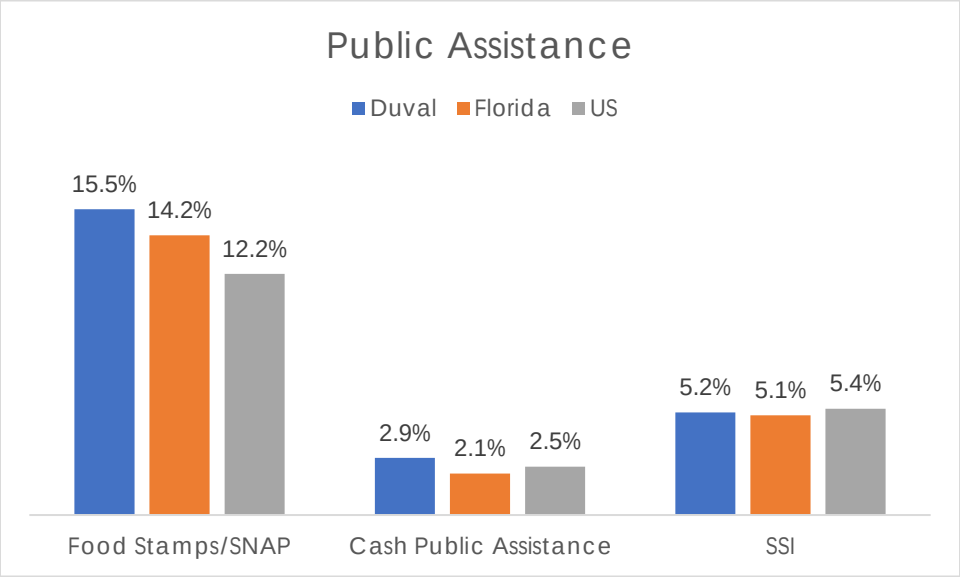
Types of Disabilities

The public school systems publish data on the types of disabilities for children.



Households with Public Assistance

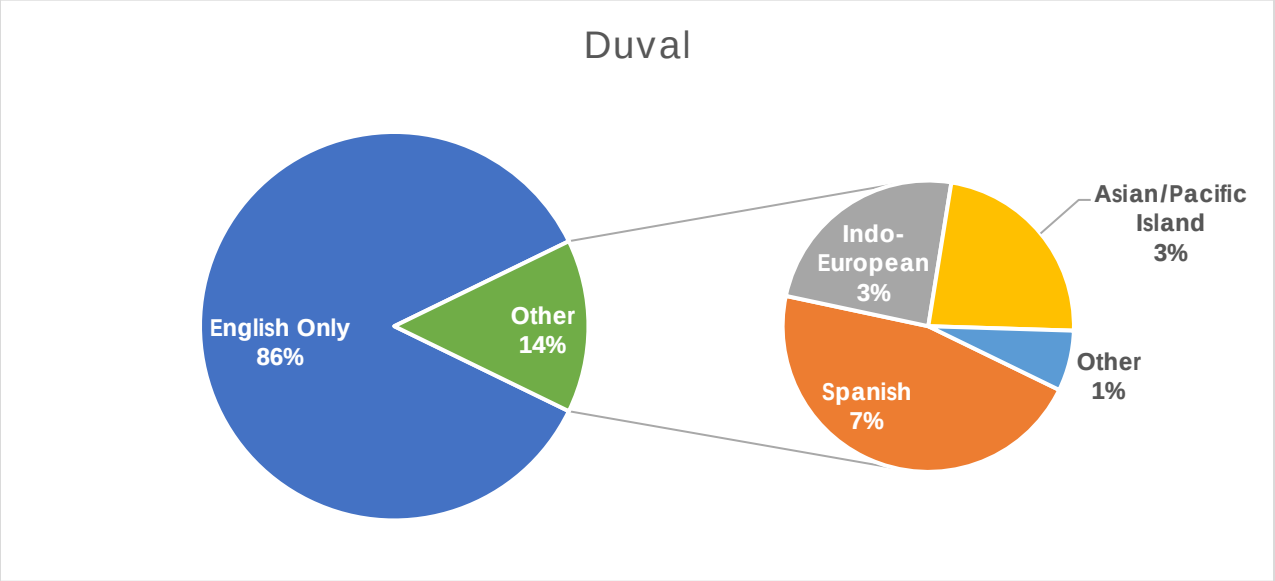
A higher percentage of households in Duval County receive food stamps and cash public assistance than the state and the nation. Food Stamps, or SNAP, is the most prevalent form of public assistance, and helps low income families afford healthy food. Cash Public Assistance is temporary, and families must meet the technical, income and asset requirements. Generally, adults must be working or in full-time job training. Supplemental Security Income, or SSI, is designed to provide basic needs for blind or disabled people with little to no income.



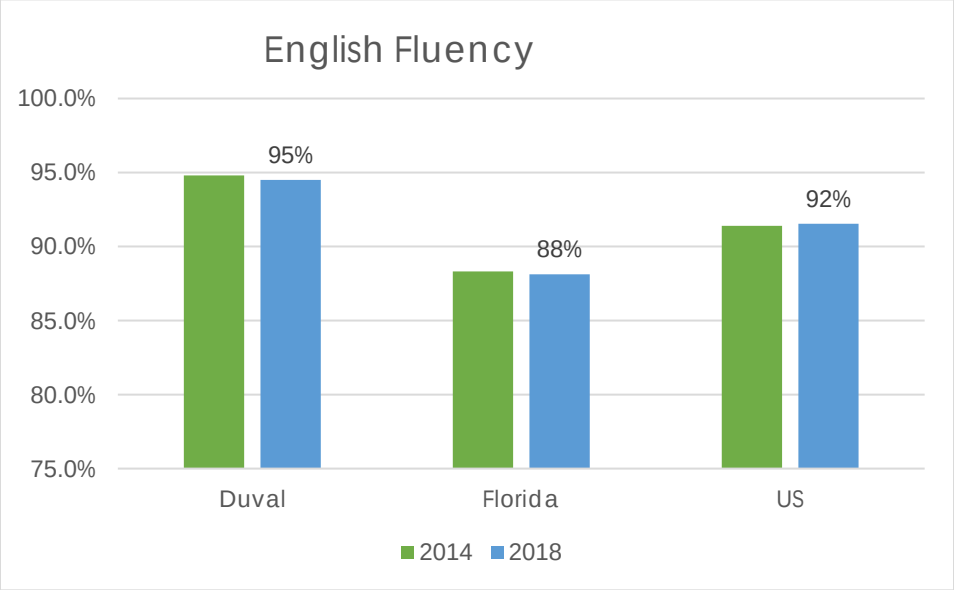
Percentage of Households with Public Assistance			
	Food Stamps/SNAP	Cash Public Assistance	SSI
Duval	16.2%	2.8%	5.3%
Florida	14.2%	2.1%	5.1%
US	12.2%	2.5%	5.4%

English Fluency

The graph identifies languages spoken in the region. The great majority – 86% - speak only English.

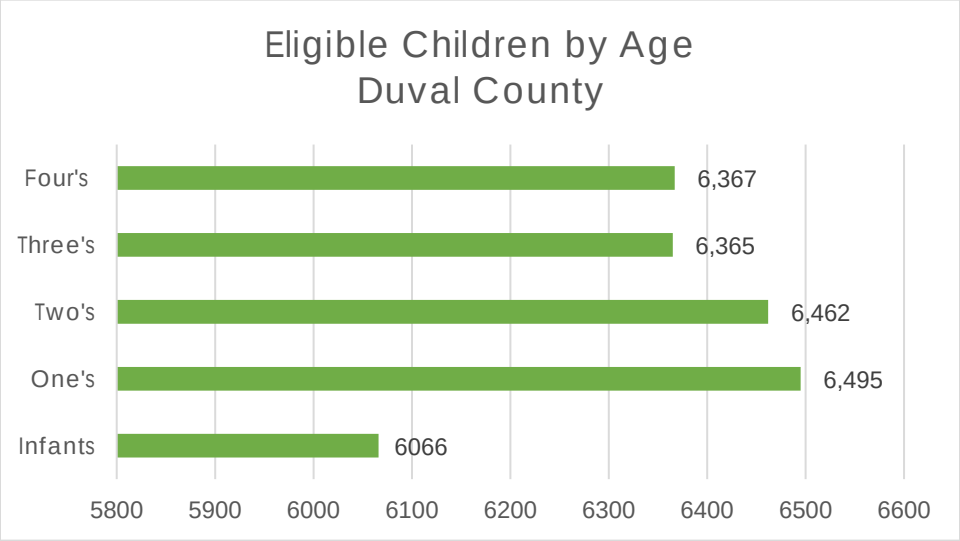


The chart identifies the percentage of the population who speak "only English" and those who "speak English very well" for each county as well as the state and the US. Overall the region has higher levels of the population who are fluent in English than the rest of the state and US.



Eligible Children by Ages

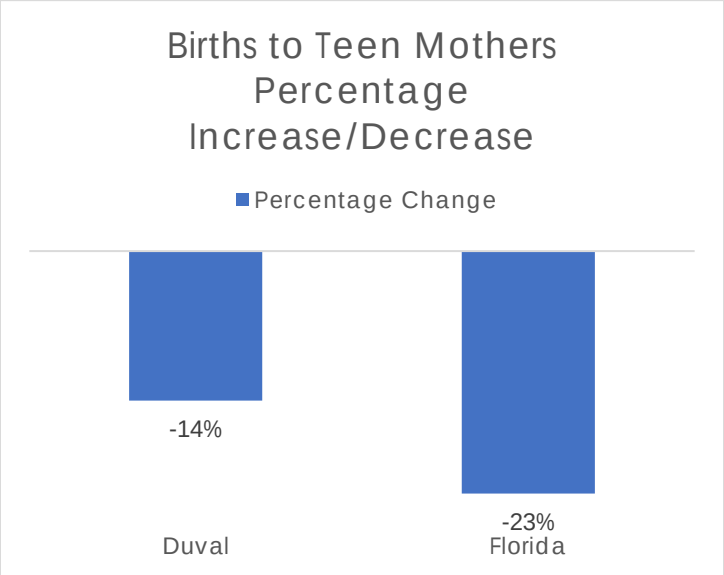
The chart identifies the age ranges of eligible children based on births covered by Medicaid.



Birth Trends

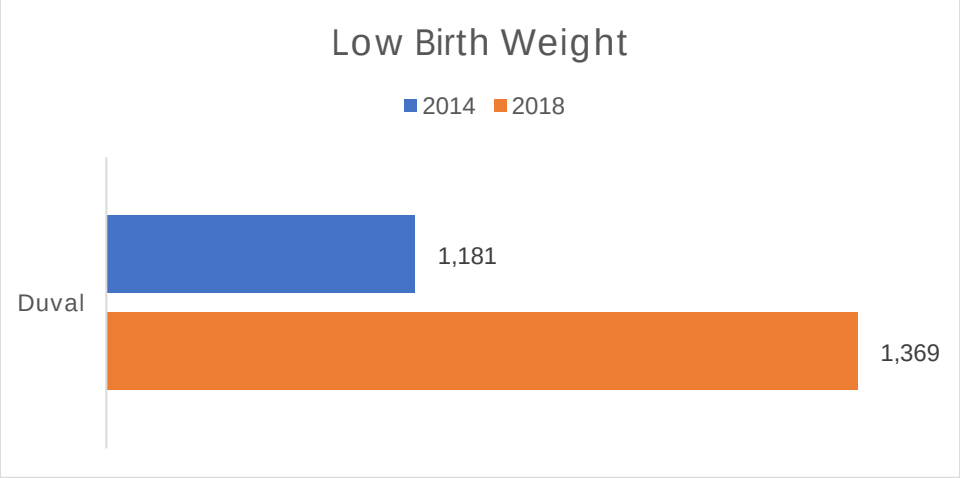
Births to Teen Mothers

Women who become pregnant during their teens are at increased risk for medical complications and social consequences.



Low Birth Weights

When babies are born small, they are at risk for health and developmental issues in life. Low birth weights are often associated with a lack of prenatal care.



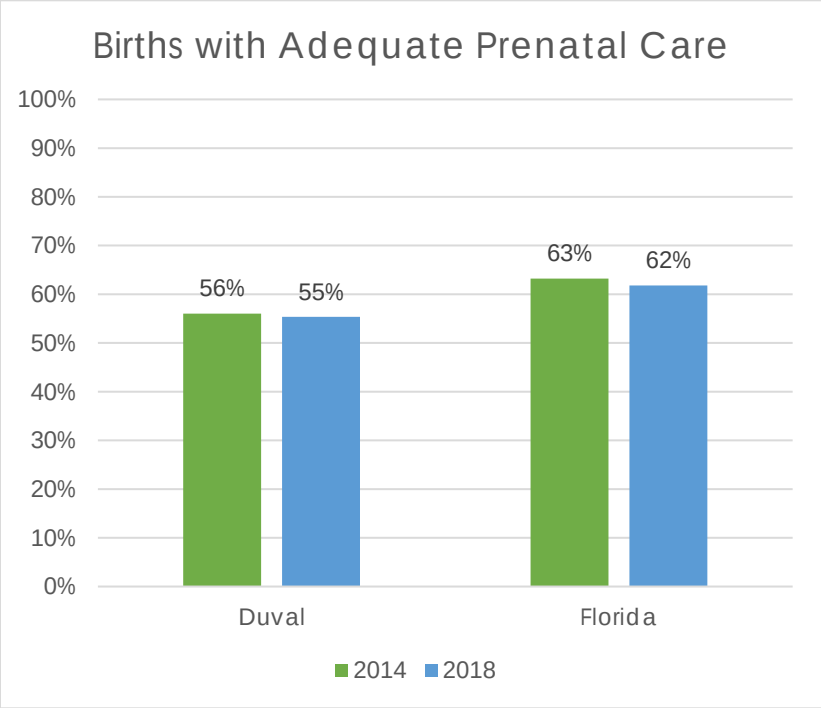
Infant Deaths

Infant mortality have increased.

Infant Deaths		
	2014	**2018**
Duval	110	123

Births with Adequate Prenatal Care

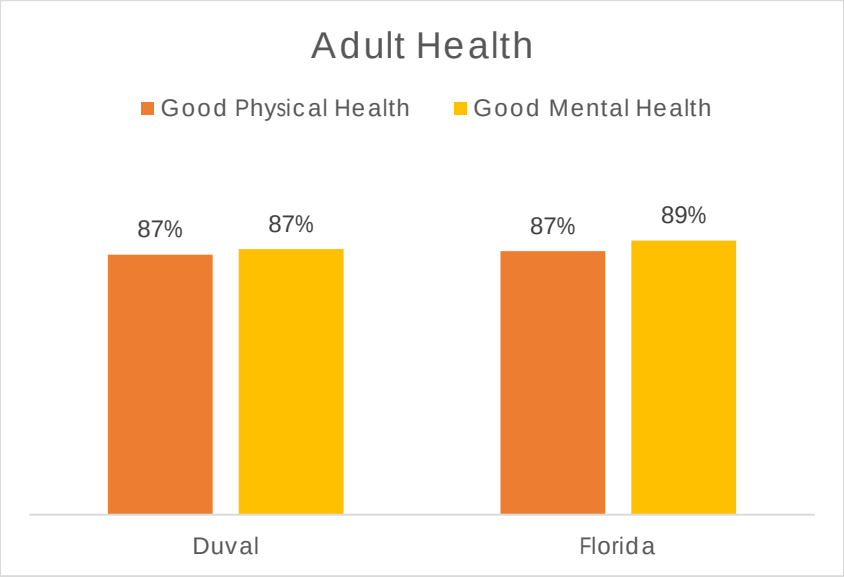
Women who become pregnant during their teens are at increased risk for medical complications and social consequences.



Health Trends

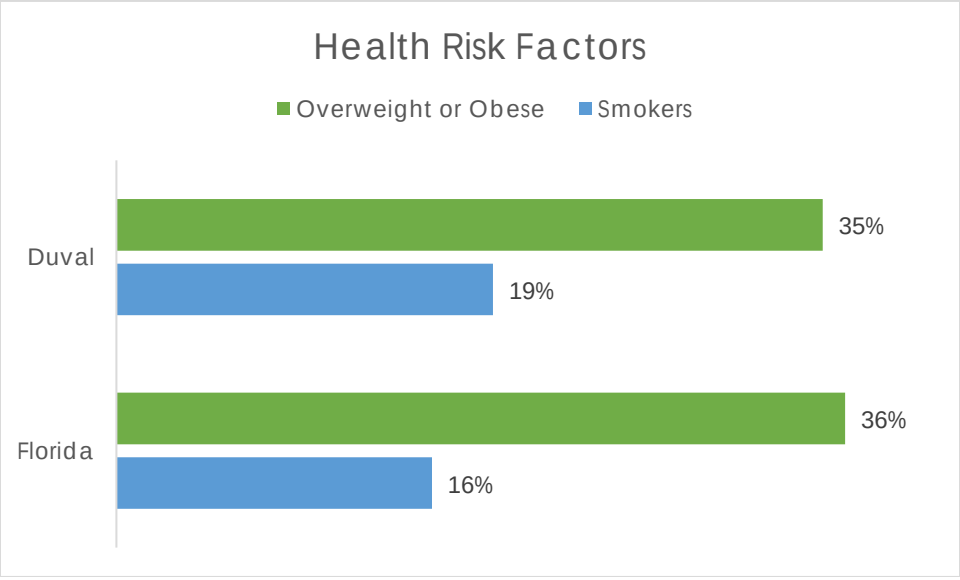
Adult Physical and Mental Health

Adults must be healthy themselves to care for children. This chart shows the percentage of adults who identify that they have good physical health and good mental health.



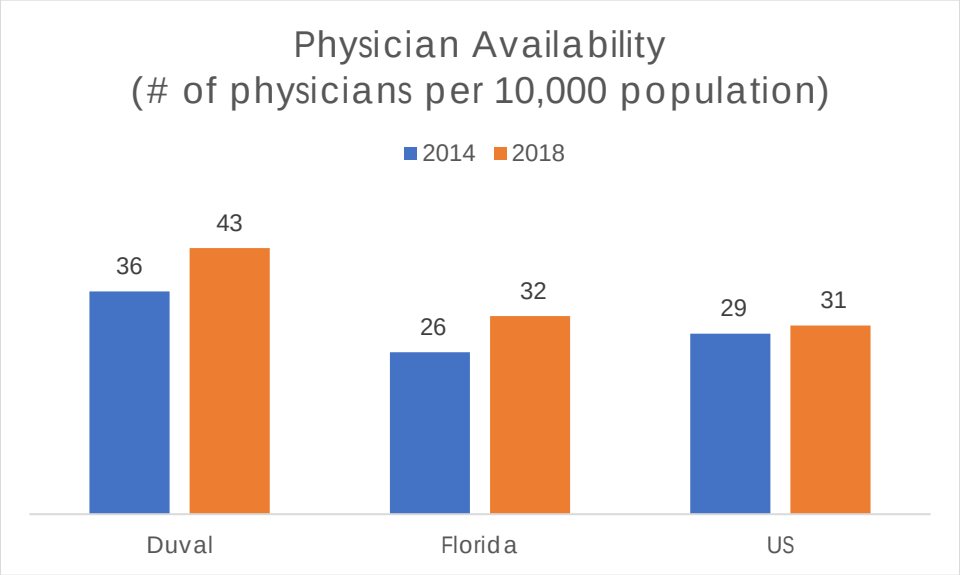
Health Risk Factors

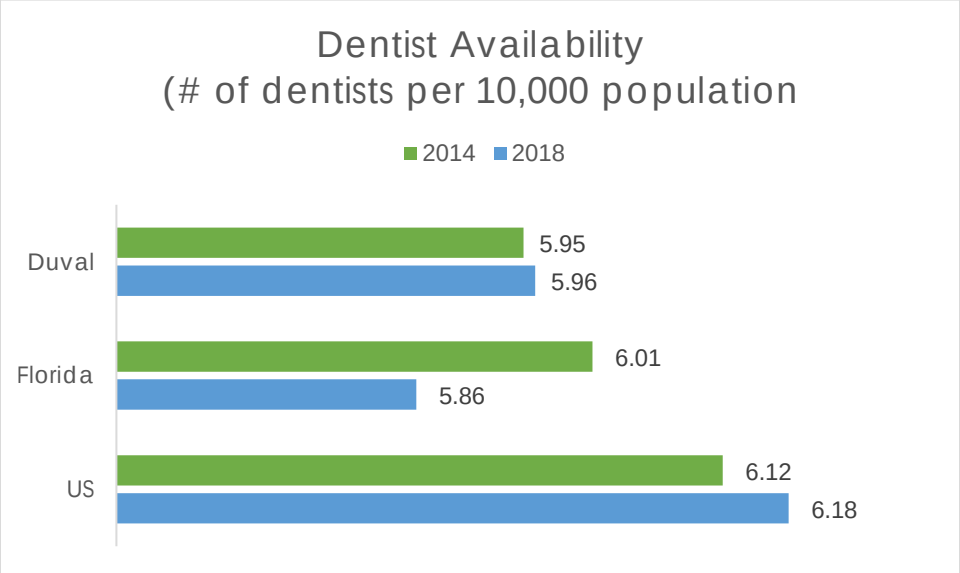
While there are many factors that can influence adult health, the most prevalent are being overweight or obese or smoking.



Health Provider Availability

Adults and children need providers in the community to meet their health needs. The following charts show the numbers of physicians and dentists relative to the population.

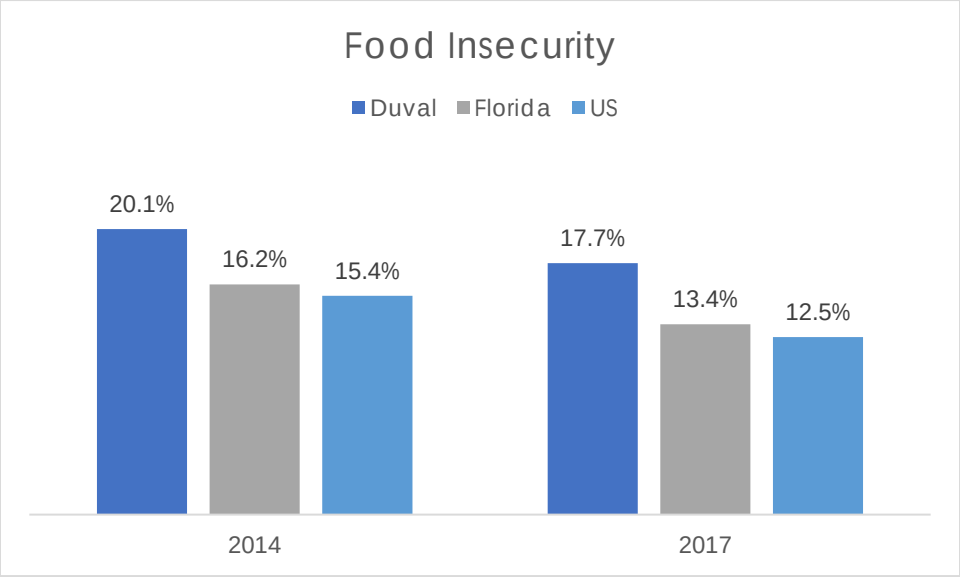




Nutrition Needs

Food Insecurity

Lack of nourishing food causes health risks. Food insecurity is defined as the state of being without reliable access to a sufficient quantity of affordable, nutritious food. Feeding America used a combination of census data and clients surveys to calculate the rate of food insecurity at a county level.



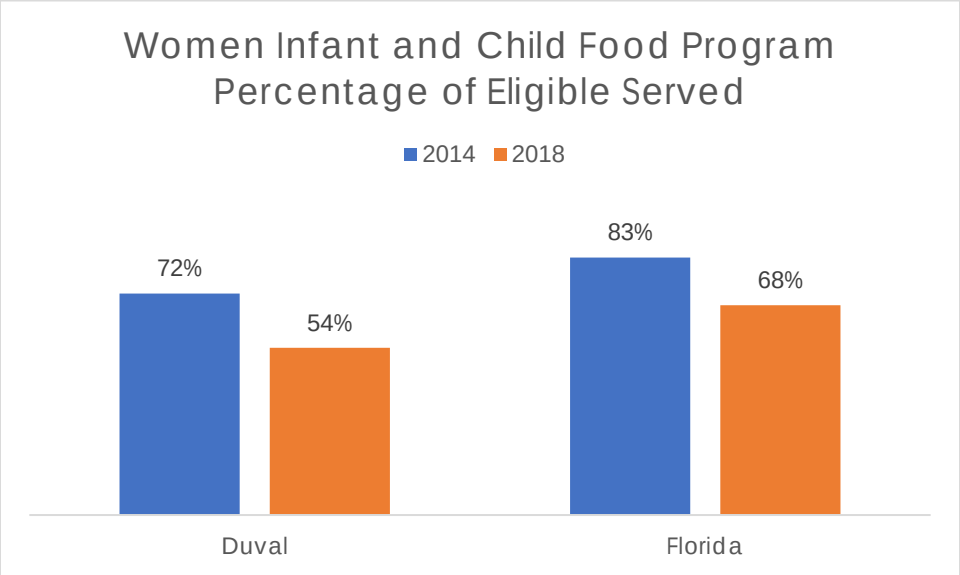
Population who is "Food Insecure"		
	2014	2017
Duval	20.1%	17.7%
Florida	16.2%	13.4%
US	15.4%	12.5%

WIC

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding postpartum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk.

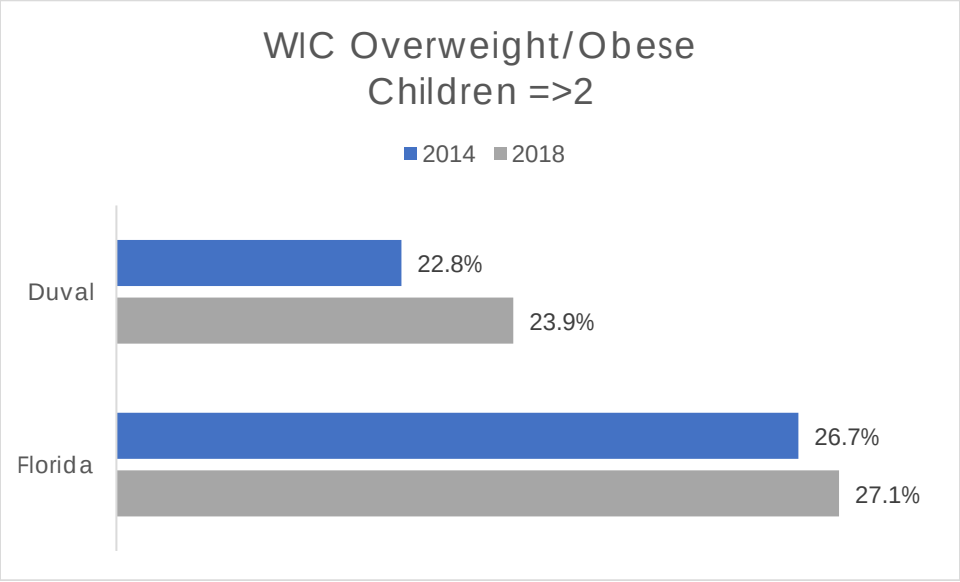
Participation Rates

The chart shows the percentage of eligible women and children served.



Children using WIC who are Overweight or Obese

Food insecurity creates increased risk of weight issues. The Florida Department of Health tracks data on young children on the WIC (Women, Infant and Children) Nutritional Program.



Childcare Trends

Availability

Types of Centers

Childcare is offered from multiple types of providers. Most providers are childcare facilities. There is also home-based care, either in a large home or traditional home.

	Centers	Large Home	Family Home
Duval	540	23	113

Child Care Availability for Infants – Pre-K

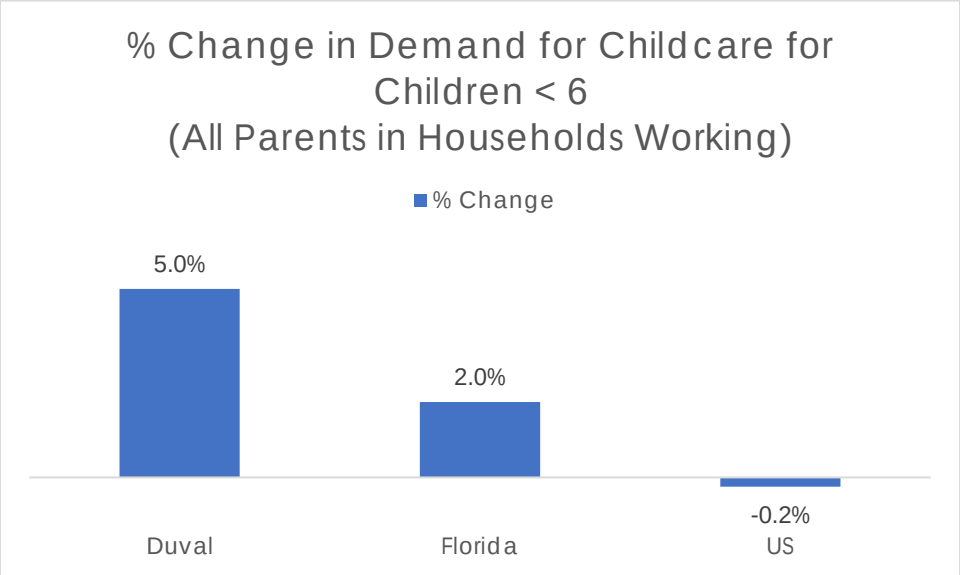
Not every childcare provider serves infants and/or children who have not yet entered kindergarten. The table identifies the capacity available by child's age.

Child Care Capacity				
	School Age Only	Available for Infants through Pre-K	Total Capacity	Percentage School Age Only
Duval	28,866	42,679	71,545	40%
Florida	148,654	764,120	912,774	16%

Need

Working families need childcare. Childcare needs to be available and affordable for families to access the care they need.

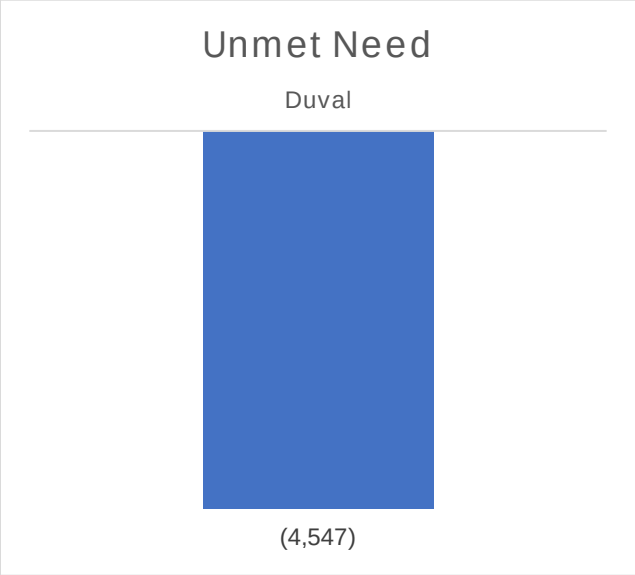
Childcare availability is impacted by changes in the number of families with young children where all parents are working.



Children <6 with all parents in household working			
	2014	2018	% Change
Duval	44,975	47,226	5.0%

Availability compared to Need

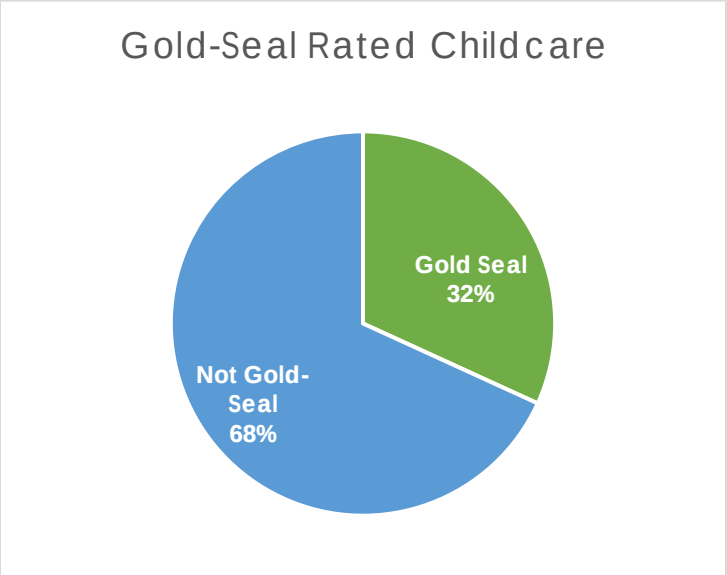
The community has more need than capacity.



	Need	Capacity	Excess Capacity (Unmet Need)	Percentage
Duval	47,226	42,679	(4,547)	-10%
Florida	854,849	764,120	(90,729)	-11%

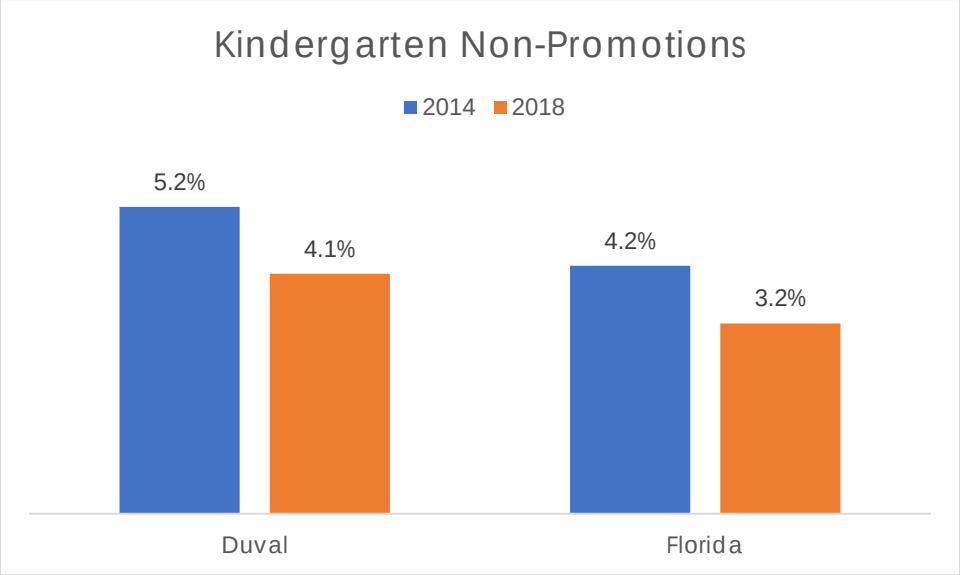
Quality

When childcare options are scarce, providers may not have as much incentive to improve quality. The Department of Children and Families provides information on the number of providers with a Gold Seal Rating.



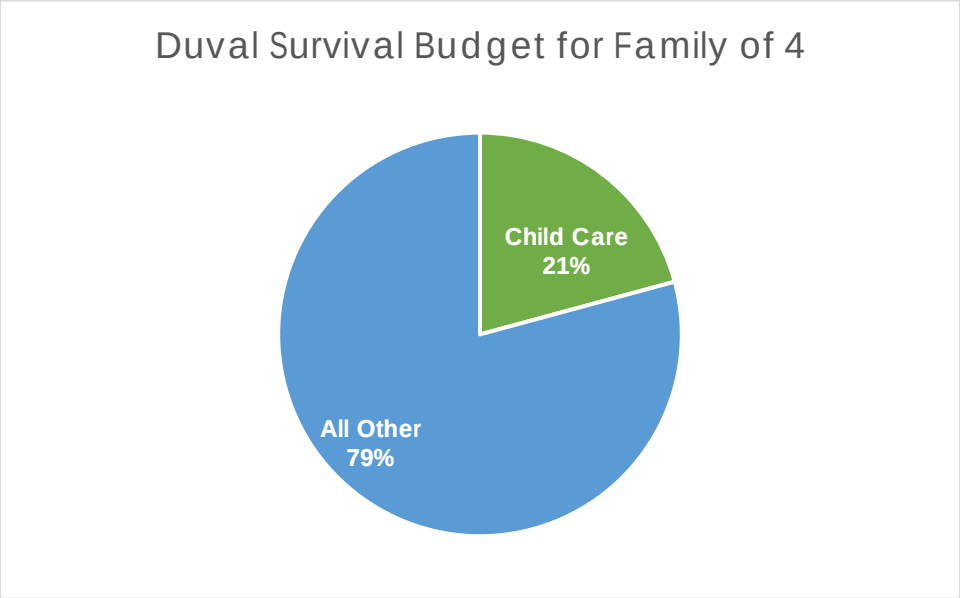
Kindergarten Non-Promotions

While many factors can impact whether a child is not promoted to kindergarten, one key factor is the opportunity for young children to access quality early education.



Childcare Cost

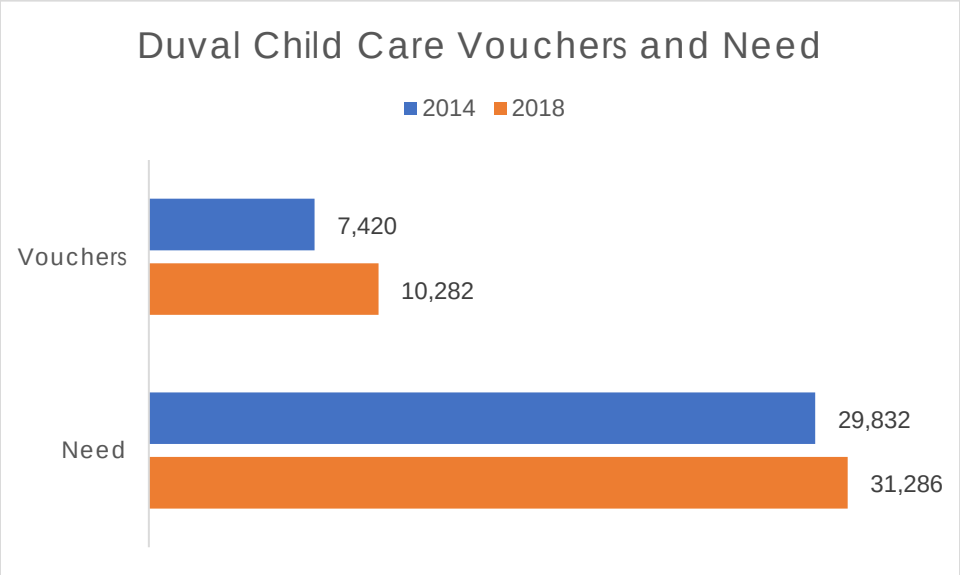
Cost of childcare impacts a family's ability to work and earn income. The United Way ALICE Report, published in 2018, provides a comprehensive look at the financial struggles of low-income families (ALICE is the acronym for **A**sset **L**imited **I**ncome **C**onstrained **E**mployed). One of the key financial indicators is the percentage of a Household Survival Budget that is required to pay for childcare for a family with 2 adults, 1 school-age child and 1 preschool child.



	Child Care Cost	Survival Budget	% Child Care
Duval	$ 973	$ 4,680	21%
Florida	$ 1,024	$ 4,597	22%

Childcare Cost Assistance

School Readiness provides vouchers to pay for a portion of a low-income family's childcare costs. While the number of vouchers has increased in the past 3 years, the number of children in need – defined at 150% of the Federal Poverty Level – has also increased.

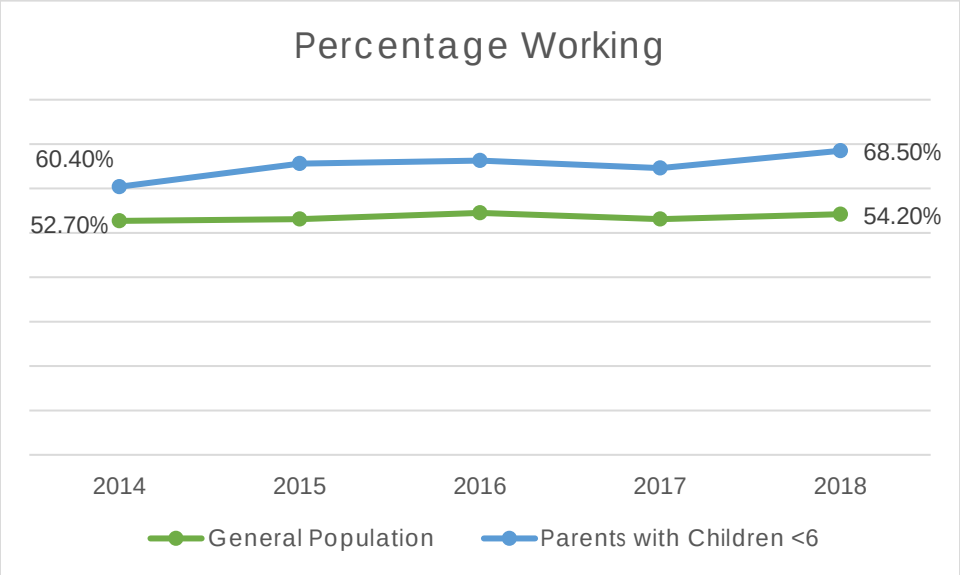


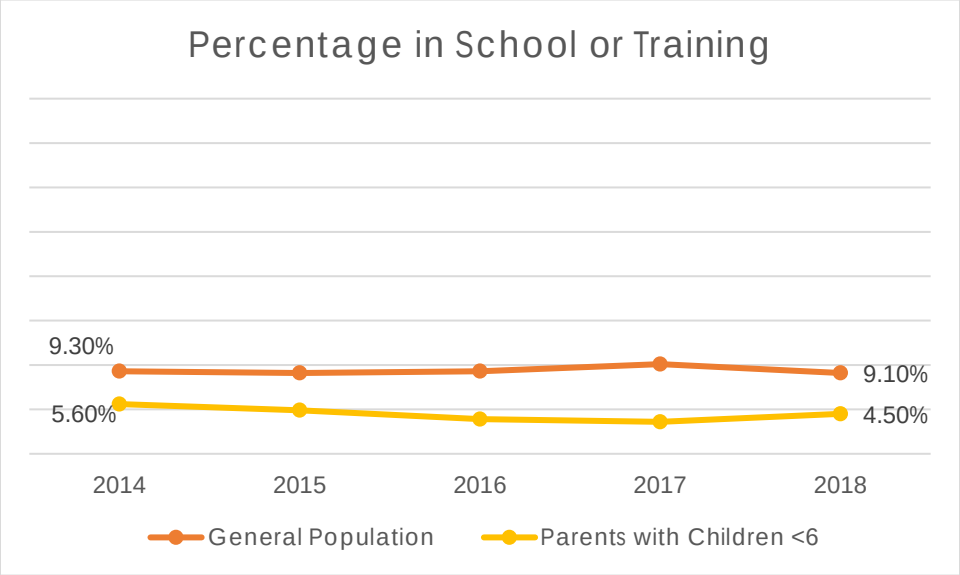
2014			
	Vouchers	Need	% Served
Duval	7,420	29,832	25%

2018			
	Vouchers	Need	% Served
Duval	10,282	31,286	33%

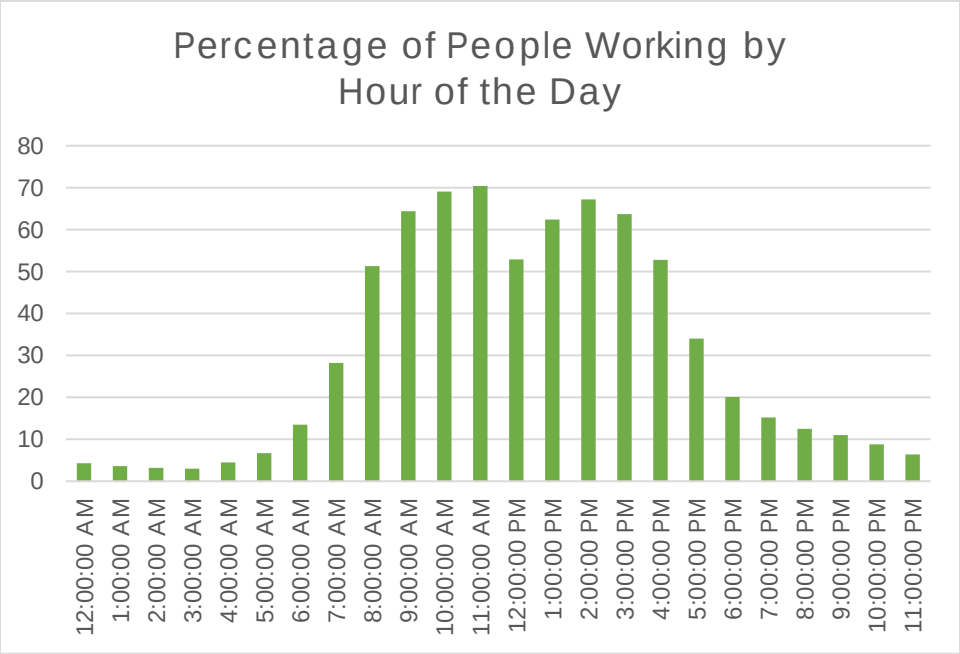
Schedules of Parents

Parents need care for their children when working or attending school or job training. The following shows the differences in the percentage of parents with young children (under six) compared to the general population for work and school/training.





This chart identifies when people are working by hour of the day.



Resources for Children and Families

Resources for Children with Disabilities

With support from the Florida Transition Project, community's have established Interagency Agreements for services provides to children with disabilities. The goal of the agreements is to avoid duplication of services and promote cooperation.

- Appendix 2 has the partners in each community's Interagency Agreement

211 for Social Services Referrals

United Way provides the 211 service to help connect families with needed resources. All communities have 24 hour telephone access and some communities also have searchable databases. The types of referrals available are identified.

1. **24 Hour Telephone Access**
    a. United Way of Northeast Florida (Baker, Clay, Duval, Nassau, Northern St. Johns Counties)
    b. United Way Marion County
    c. United Way of North Central Florida (Alachua, Bradford, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy)
    d. United Way Citrus County
    e. United Way Lake and Sumter Counties (Lake)
    f. United Way of St. Johns County (Putnam, St. Johns)

2. **Online Searchable Database:**
    a. Northeast Florida Online Database (includes providers in Putnam and St. Johns Counties)
    http://www.mycommunitypt.com/nefin/index.php?option=com_cpx
    b. Marion County Online Database
    http://www.mycommunitypt.com/nefin/index.php?option=com_cpx
    c. Lake County Online Database
    http://www.navigateresources.net/211CommunityResources/

3. **Types of Referrals Available**
    a. Housing
    b. Financial Aid, Clothing and Material Goods
    c. Food and Transportation
    d. Disaster and Emergency Services
    e. Legal, Tax and Immigration Services
    f. Education and Employment
    g. Health and Medical Care
    h. Health Insurance, Medicaid and Medicare
    i. Mental Health and Substance Abuse
    j. Consumer and Public Safety
    k. Community, Children and Elder Services

Housing

Each community has established a Continuum of Care to direct resources for services for people experiencing homelessness as well as to support affordable housing needs.

- Appendix 3 has a list of the Continuums of Care across the state

Early Learning Coalitions

Each community has an Early Learning Coalition to steward state and national funding for Childcare vouchers, Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten, and Childcare Resource and Referrals.

- Appendix 4 has a list of the Early Learning Coalitions across the state

Department of Children and Families

This is the state organization where families can access food, medical assistance and cash, report abuse and neglect, and obtain information on childcare. The site address is www.myflfamilies.com