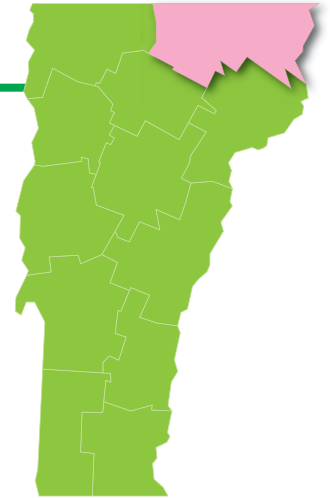
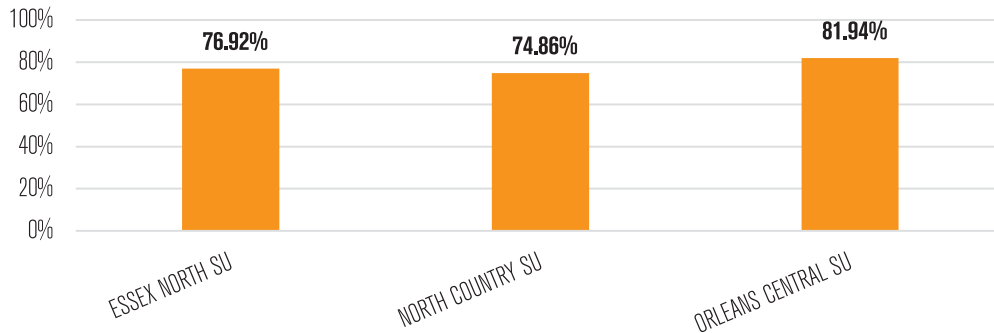


Orleans & Northern Essex Region



2015-2016 R4K!S Percent of All Students Ready for Kindergarten



Child Population

under age 9

2014

-3.1%

2,543 CHILDREN

DECLINED

2011 **2,625**

STARS Participation

2016

84%

63 PROGRAMS

IMPROVED

2010 **33.33%**

29 PROGRAMS

Immunization Rates

2015

68.2%

272 CHILDREN

IMPROVED

2013 **65.8%**

296 CHILDREN

Children in DCF Custody

under age 9

2014

5.51

rate per 1,000
14 CHILDREN

INCREASED

2012 **5.07**

rate per 1,000
13 CHILDREN

About the region

The Building Bright Futures Orleans and Northern Essex Region covers the northern half of the geographic area known as Vermont's Northeast Kingdom. The region is known for its natural resources and landscape. The region's population center is its only city, Newport, which houses one of the largest employers in the region, North Country Hospital, but much of the population lives in small towns and villages.

The Building Bright Futures Orleans and Northern Essex Regional Council includes representatives from the region's three supervisory unions, early childhood educators, as well as representatives from the health (including mental health) and non-profit sectors. The regional council is committed to building a community where young children and their

families are celebrated and supported since the rural and sometimes isolated nature of the region can make accessing services, transportation, and employment difficult for its residents.

In 2016–2017, the regional council is focused on these priorities:

- Promoting the physical well-being of children and their families, as rates of obesity among children entering preschool has become an issue of concern;
- Enhancing caregiver's understanding of the social and emotional well-being of children; and
- Providing meaningful and useful information about child well-being for parents as well as providers in the local system of care.