Iowa offers a network of supportive public and private programs, including universal preschool. But when we count every Iowa child accurately using integrated administrative data, we learn that the benefit is not universal.

Participation gaps and lack of access can be identified most readily among the following early childhood populations:

- Black, Hispanic, and multiracial children
- Children living in urban areas
- Children born to a mother without a high school diploma
- Children whose mothers had inadequate prenatal care
- Children of immigrants

**PERCENT OF CHILDREN WITH NO PRESCHOOL EXPERIENCE IN THE YEAR BEFORE KINDERGARTEN**

- Urban: 31.1%
- Multiple Races: 30.9%
- Parent Immigrant: 29.7%
- Black: 29.7%
- Low Maternal Education: 29.5%
- Inadequate Prenatal Care: 29.4%
- Asian: 28.9%
- Hispanic: 26.9%
- White: 26.3%
- Preterm/Low Birthweight: 25.8%
- Teen Mom: 25.0%
- Single Mom: 24.9%
- Poverty: 23.7%
- Rural: 16.9%

Data note: Using I2D2 this study included all types of preschool experiences including state-funded preschool, private center-based care, Head Start, and subsidized child care.
In total, 27% of Iowa children had no center-based educational experience the year before starting kindergarten.

HOW CAN WE FILL THE GAP?

- Target state funds toward areas that lack preschool access
- Find opportunities to connect with underserved, at-risk populations
- Contact the experts at I2D2 to learn more

This brief is provided by I2D2, a program of Iowa State University and Early Childhood Iowa committed to putting the state's most informed, passionate, and data-driven resources to work ensuring all Iowa children are successful from birth. For more information about the findings presented here, please see the ECI 2019 Statewide Needs Assessment. A comprehensive report of I2D2 findings including methodology and additional analyses will be available at www.i2d2.iastate.edu.