



LINCOLN COUNTY RESOURCE BOARD

Putting Kids First in Lincoln County

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." - Martin Luther King, Jr.

2023 Needs Assessment: A Closer Look Prepared by Dr. Cynthia Berry

The LCRB 2023 Needs Assessment offers a global view of our county's demographics and trends; considers the LCRB funding statute and associated funded programs; and identifies areas of progress and need within our system of care.



This month, the LCRB highlights the Substantiated Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect section, which reports:

- In 2022, Lincoln County reported 637 incidents of child abuse and neglect.
- Notably, in 2022, Lincoln County reported 5.73 substantiated cases of child abuse for every 1,000 children. In comparison to the state and comparative counties (see table below), Lincoln County had the highest rate of substantiated cases, substantially surpassing Missouri's rate of 3.08. The data also indicates a significant increase in the number of incidents and children requiring family assessments over time, highlighting a 77% increase since 2011.
- From 2007 to 2021, the number of children entering or re-entering state custody in Missouri saw a notable 30% increase, whereas Lincoln County experienced a comparatively modest 8% increase. Dr. Berry writes: *Given this relative stability and significant gap between the local and state rates, this outcome is viewed as mixed, indicating both positive and challenging aspects.*

Table 38. Substantiated Children per 1,000 -2019 vs. 2022

Regions	2019	2022
Missouri	3.7	3.1
Franklin	3.4	3.9
Lincoln	6.3	5.7
Montgomery	2.8	4.5
St. Charles	2.7	2.6
Warren	4.6	4.2

Source: Missouri Department of Social Services Annual Reports 2019 and 2022

Yellow highlights denote counties with children's services funds.

To read or download the full report, click the following link:
[LCRB's 2023 Needs Assessment.](#)

LCRB Approves the C.A.N. Plan

With the 2020 and 2023 Lincoln County Needs Assessments reporting that Lincoln

County's substantiated child abuse cases nearly double the state's average, the LCRB, during its February 28, 2024, meeting, approved a Child Abuse & Neglect (C.A.N.) Plan.



The C.A.N. Plan includes two initiatives:

1. A special report, led by Dr. Cynthia Berry, to conduct a more in-depth analysis of our local child abuse and neglect rates, cases and multi-disciplinary team response.
2. A public awareness campaign, called Justice for Kids Lincoln County, to educate our constituents about crimes against children to promote child safety and justice.

The LCRB convened key leaders to ask for their participation in the special report. Attendees included detectives from the Troy Police Department; Juvenile Office; Children's Division; Lincoln County Sheriff's Office, including Sheriff Rick Harrell; The Child Advocacy Center; Crisis Nursery; Associate Circuit Judges Michael Jacobs and Rebecca Richardson; Treatment Court; Prosecuting Attorney Mike Wood; and Dr. Cynthia Berry. Dr. Berry is finalizing the report's survey for agencies' review and responses next month.

In addition, and in conjunction with April's commemoration as Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Month, Justice for Kids billboards will be placed off South Lincoln Drive and a digital billboard on Highway 47 in Troy. A Justice for Kids Lincoln County Facebook campaign will commence next month as well.

**More than Diapers and
Formula**
***The Shower of Love 2024
Campaign Reduces Child
Abuse Risk Factors***

The Lincoln County Early Childhood Task Force is forecasting a downpour of donations for the 2024 Shower of Love campaign.



Shower of Love serves as a collection drive for critical baby care items. Donations are distributed to local non-profits serving pregnant women, babies and fragile families in crisis residing in Lincoln County. Monetary Shower of Love donations help families meet their basic needs, reducing stressors associated with heightened child abuse and neglect risk factors.

According to research from Yale University's School of Medicine, women who lack an adequate supply of diapers for their babies are more likely to report symptoms of depression and anxiety. Research also demonstrates linkages with poverty and child abuse factors, for instance impoverished parents who try to extend diaper use have babies who frequently cry and have significant cases of diaper rash and urinary tract infections.

The Early Childhood Task Force, which the LCRB serves as a member, encourages local schools, churches, clubs and businesses to consider hosting a Shower of Love baby shower during the months of April and May. Shower of Love monetary donations may be made to the: Public Health Fund, memo line: Shower of Love. The LCRB will collect Shower of Love donations.

Follow the LCRB on Facebook for more information and updates. Join us at Chihuahua's Mexican Restaurant on April 18 for a dine-out fundraiser. Help us shower Lincoln County babies with love.

DINE OUT FUNDRAISER

Enjoy some delicious food & raise \$\$ for
Shower of Love.

Chihuahua's will donate 20% of the
sales



101 N. Lincoln Dr. Troy, MO 63379

When: Thurs., April 18, 2024

Time: 4-9 p.m.

"Shower of Love collects critical care baby items for nonprofits serving fragile Lincoln County families and babies — reducing the risk of child abuse and neglect."

Bridge of Hope Lincoln County Prepares to Open its Doors

This month, community members and donors filled Bridge of Hope Lincoln County for a ribbon cutting and open house ceremony.

Once the final kitchen appliances arrive and are installed, Bridge of Hope will open its doors to Lincoln County's unhoused community members who will receive emergency shelter with wrap-around services. Bridge of Hope staff looks forward to welcoming residents following the Easter holiday.

For community members who could not attend the open house ceremony, Bridge of Hope will offer an encore open house this Wednesday, March 27 from 4-7 p.m. Learn more about the community-supported Bridge of Hope mission, its programs and how you can support Bridge of Hope's work in Lincoln County.



LCRB Meetings

Join the LCRB tomorrow (Wed., March 27) for our monthly meeting, **featuring a provider brief by funded partner F.A.C.T.**

The meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. at the [Cuivre River Electric Cooperative Community Room in Troy](#), with a Zoom option for virtual attendance.

Visit our [website and its meetings page](#) for more information and instructions.



All LCRB meetings, unless otherwise posted on the LCRB website, are held the fourth Wednesday of the month at Cuivre River Electric Cooperative (Troy), Community Room. **Please note our new meeting time: 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.**

LINCOLN COUNTY RESOURCE BOARD | [Website](#)



Lincoln County Resource Board | 101 West College Street, Suite 5, Troy, MO 63379

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