



Part C Data Notes

2008-09 Reporting Year and Fall 2009

This document provides information, or data notes, on the ways in which states collected and reported data differently from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) data formats and instructions. In addition, the data notes provide explanations of substantial changes or other changes that data users may find notable or of interest in the data from the previous year.

The data notes are organized as follows: Child Count, Settings, Exiting, and Dispute Resolution.

2009 Child Count

Alabama

Currently, Alabama does not serve infants and toddlers over the age of 3 years.

Alaska

Alaska Part C does not serve children ages 3 or older. Alaska does not serve at-risk infants and toddlers.

America Samoa

American Samoa Part C does not serve children over the age of 3. American Samoa broadened its eligibility requirements over the past reporting period. This and increased Child Find activities have affected the number of children served. In March, American Samoa resubmitted data due to miscalculations in age categories. Data were originally submitted using age groups: 0-12; 13-24; 25-36. Data were corrected to reflect the count for age groups: 0-11; 12-23; 24-36.

Arizona

Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) has continued intensive data validation and clean-up efforts with its local program data providers.

California

California Part C does not serve children ages 3 to 5. These children are served by Part B.

Connecticut

Connecticut estimated the race/ethnicity for 67 children who had an unknown race/ethnicity or multiple race/ethnicities. As requested in an email on Jan. 21, 2010, at 12:28 PM from Newton Piper, Connecticut had already prepared the Part C 2009 Child Count and Settings data based on instructions and forms available prior to OMB approval.

Delaware

Delaware has collapsed the following categories into the *community-based setting* category: Head Start, nursery school, school/community program, and family day care. The following categories defaulted into

the *other* category: program designed for children with developmental delay or disabilities, hospital (inpatient), residential facility, service provider location, and prescribed pediatric extended care facility (day facility for medically fragile children)

Florida

Florida Part C follows Florida Department of Education (FDOE) practice and used Oct. 16, 2009 (the Friday of the fall public school full-time equivalency (FTE) week) for its count. A total of 1,714 children were of unknown or other race and were proportionately distributed into OSEP's race categories as in previous years. Florida's Part C 2009 Child Count and Settings data were calculated based on instructions and forms available prior to OMB approval.

Georgia

A total of 329 children of unknown race (multi or other) were imputed according to the guidelines.

Guam

Guam Part C does not provide services to children 3 years of age and older.

The decrease in the number of female infants and toddlers ages birth through 2 reflected an overall decrease in the number of children age birth through 2 served with early intervention. The overall decrease in children served in turn affected the percentage rate for males and females ages birth through 2 served. Over the years, Child Count for Part C in Guam has always been greater for males than for females. Trends show that the percentage of female children served continues to range in the 30 to 40 percentiles. The percentage of males served continues to be between the 50 to 60 percentile ranges as reported every year since 2005. This appears to be part of a normal trend for number of males and females served under early intervention.

Hawaii

The significant decrease in the number of children served this year compared with last was because Hawaii is no longer providing service coordination for children environmentally at risk. As a result of a public hearing last year (May 2009), there was a change in Part C eligibility, and children at environmental risk were removed from Hawaii's definition of Part C eligibility.

Idaho

The state's data were submitted according to the 2008 data instructions because the 2009 Child Count and Settings instructions were not yet approved. In January 2010, the state revised its data. The cumulative number of infants and toddlers was modified from 3,603 to 3,663. Sixty infants and toddlers were excluded from the original analysis due to data system error. No change was made in Pages 1 through 3. The number of eligible children receiving early intervention services according to an active IFSP in place on the count date was not affected by the data system error.

Illinois

1. This is the first time Illinois reported with the seven categories instead of five. Thus, comparisons to the previous report are more complicated than usual.
2. Race was imputed due to missing, unknown, or other entries for 260 children. It was not necessary to impute age or gender.

3. The caseload overall declined by 1.45 percent from the previous report. This was a change from years of rapid caseload growth. Referrals numbers flattened, which resulted in lower numbers of children entering the program. Discussions with stakeholders led the state to conclude that the economy is an important factor. For some stressed families, early intervention (EI) services have become less of a priority. In addition, while the EI program itself has maintained its Child Find efforts, reductions in both public and private funding for partner agencies that have acted as screening agents and referral sources have reduced the reach of the program overall.
4. The only major racial/ethnic group to increase from the previous report was Hispanic children. They increased by 3.29 percent. This reflected the continued growth in the proportion and number of births to Hispanic families in Illinois.
5. A 2.49 percent decrease in the black caseload was a continuation that tracked to lower birth numbers for black children. However, this was only slightly larger than the overall caseload decrease and also was probably affected by the addition of the multi through racial category.
6. The 6.34 percent decline in the white caseload reflected several factors. Most of the cases counted as multi through racial were previously counted as white. There was the overall decline in the caseload, and factors that point to the economy negatively affecting Child Find show a more pronounced effect on white families.
7. The number of children under age 1 comprised just 10.67 percent of all cases for this report, but they accounted for more than half of the decline in the caseload. The state believed this was another factor pointing to the impact of a weak economy. Parents of infants are most likely to feel the stress that makes them believe EI is not a priority.
8. The number of children ages 1 through 2 fell by 2.51 percent, which was only slightly more than the caseload fell overall. The 2 through 3 age group, which constituted 58.68 percent of all cases, actually increased by a scant 0.21 percent.

Maine

Maine does not serve children age 3 and over in Part C.

Massachusetts

Race/ethnicity was estimated for 768 children (5.1 percent of total children). There were 111 (14.5 percent) children who were ages birth to 1, 253 (32.9 percent) ages 1 to 2, and 404 (52.6 percent) ages 2 to 3. There were 465 (60.5 percent) males and 303 (39.5 percent) females.

Michigan

Michigan had 94 multi-racial children, distributed into five racial/ethnic categories.

Mississippi

Mississippi Part C does not serve children ages 3 years or older.

Nebraska

Nebraska allows parents to choose Part C through August 31 following the child's third birthday. So, the oldest child served under Part C is age 3.

New York

New York Part C does not serve children ages 3 or older. However, under certain circumstances, children ages 3 or older are allowed to remain in the Part C program until the effective date of their Committee of Preschool Special Education. The numbers reported excluded 421 children over age 3 who were enrolled in the NY Early Intervention Program on Oct. 1, 2009. New York does not serve at-risk children.

There was a decrease from 4,298 children with unknown race/ethnicity in the last reporting period to 3,979 in this reporting period. Much of this decrease in unknown race/ethnicity was a result of New York City's efforts to get more complete race/ethnicity data. The 3,979 children with unknown race/ethnicity were distributed by apportioning the unknown children within a county in direct proportion to the distribution of children in the county with known race/ethnicity or, for New York City, apportioning the unknown race/ethnicity using the results of a match of New York City EI eligible with the race/ethnicity reported by their birth mother on birth certificate records.

Thirty-two children with unknown gender were distributed by apportioning these children in direct proportion to the distribution of children with known gender. The overall child count increase of 1,726 (5.5 percent) from 2008 to 2009 was mainly in New York City, whose population has a higher proportion in the Asian or Pacific Islander and Black categories, resulting in larger increases in these categories (+18.8 percent and +15.1 percent respectively). New York State continued to report race using five categories. Although the new system, which allows the entry of multiple races, has been implemented, many children were entered using the old race categories. Children with more than one race indicated were classified using a priority system, in which any indication of race other than white caused a child to be assigned to that race, with priority given to the minority classification with the greatest representation in cases where more than one race other than white was indicated.

North Carolina

The eligibility criteria for the North Carolina Part C program, as approved by OSEP, changed on July 1, 2006. Previously a broad eligibility definition had been in place, which included the provision of services to at-risk infant and toddlers. Under the new eligibility definition, at-risk children referred after July 1, 2006 were not served. As all children who were classified as high-risk have aged out, North Carolina will no longer report these.

Northern Marianas

All data were considered valid and reliable and were verified.

New Hampshire

The state had 67 children with a race/ethnicity of multi-racial, and this information was not represented on the form.

Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico Early Intervention Services System has not adopted Part B due process procedures, so it does not serve children older than 3. Puerto Rico does not serve at-risk infants and toddlers.

Rhode Island

This year, Rhode Island reported its data in accordance with the Department of Education's 2007 Guidance for Race or Ethnicity. The Rhode Island Early Intervention Care Coordination System (RIEICCS) allows providers to check multiple races in compliance with the OMB standards. For this report, the following reporting categories were used based on family report: Hispanic/Latino of any race; for individuals who were non-Hispanic/Latin, Rhode Island used the five federal categories; Rhode Island used two or more races when two or more races were selected for non-Hispanic/Latino. None of the children (0 percent) was without identified race. RIEICCS system data were validated through a raw data download to an Access database. Enrollment continued to increase. Changes to the collection of race have now been fully implemented for over a year. Race data for children already enrolled were not updated when the system changed. Race data collection policies were also re-distributed to all providers. These factors along with the continued increase in enrollment caused a change from the previous year's count. The selection of Hispanic above all races accounted for the increase in this population and decrease in other populations. A total of 47 percent of Hispanics selected white as their race, and 11 percent listed black as their race. These data may change due to future edits, updates, and corrections. Please review report print dates when comparing data.

Tennessee

Tennessee Division of Special Education staff verified these data were accurate.

Utah

Data were collected and compiled using the Baby Toddler Online Tracking System (BTOTS), Utah's statewide database system. All contracting early intervention providers verify annually that their BTOTS data were complete and accurate and that they collect race and ethnicity information per OSEP's revised guidelines.

Virginia

Virginia's Part C System does not serve children older than 3 or at risk. This data submission included 1,034 infants and toddlers receiving services (free appropriate public education (FAPE)) through the public schools.

Virgin Islands

VI Part C does not serve children ages 3 and older.

Washington

The state reported race/ethnicity data in the five federal categories. The Washington State Early Intervention Program does not provide services for children over the age 3. The Washington State Early Intervention Program does not provide services for at-risk infants and toddlers.

West Virginia

The decrease in the number of children reported was attributed to WV's Part C narrowing eligibility criteria. Changes in eligibility criteria went into effect May 1, 2009, and resulted from the need to ensure that funds were available to serve eligible children most in need of services.

2009 Settings

Alabama

Currently, Alabama does not serve infants and toddlers over the age of 3 years.

Alaska

Alaska does not serve children ages 3 or older.

America Samoa

American Samoa does not serve children over the age of 3. American Samoa broadened its eligibility requirements over the past reporting period. This and increased Child Find activities affected the number of children served.

Arizona

Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzeIP) continued intensive data validation and clean-up efforts with its local program data providers.

California

California Part C does not serve children ages 3 to 5. These children are served by Part B.

Connecticut

The other settings category includes hospitals, audiology suites, safe homes, child protective services office (DCF), and service coordination only via the internet. All individualized family service plans (IFSPs) for children receiving any service in a setting other than home or community had justifications on file with the lead agency. As requested in an email on Jan. 21, 2010, from Newton Piper, Connecticut had already prepared the Part C 2009 Child Count and Settings data based on instructions and forms available prior to OMB approval.

District of Columbia

The increase in the number of children receiving services in community-based settings represented a change in policy in which the District of Columbia (DC) discontinued a program that required some children enrolled in Medicaid (e.g., children in foster care) to access their services in a clinic setting. More children were served in inclusive community-based settings as a result. In the past year, DC has also conducted several trainings for service coordinators and Medicaid Managed Care Organizations on the natural environment requirement in an effort to improve the percentage of children served in home and community-based settings.

Delaware

Delaware collapsed the following categories into the community-based setting category: Head Start, nursery school, school/community program, and family day care. The following categories defaulted into the other category: program designed for children with developmental delay or disabilities, hospital (inpatient), residential facility, service provider location, and prescribed pediatric extended care facility (day facility for medically fragile children)

Florida

There were 1,750 children with no primary setting included in the other settings category. Last year, there were 2,084 children with no primary setting included. Florida's Part C 2009 Child Count and Settings data were calculated based on instructions and forms available prior to OMB approval, as advised by Westat staff and our OSEP state contact.

Georgia

Georgia had a decrease in the number of children receiving services in the home, while the proportion of children receiving services in the community setting increased from 2008 to 2009. The significant shift in reported data was the result of a correction in the calculation of primary settings. In 2008, primary setting was based on where a child received the largest quantity of services; the amount of time receiving service was not factored. For example, if a child received four services in the home and two services at a clinic, the child was classified as home setting.

As of FFY2009, primary setting was based on where a child spent the largest quantity of time. A total number of minutes in each setting was determined, and the child was then classified in the setting with the largest number of minutes. The records examined in this calculation were all service records associated with the child's current IFSP as of the end date selected on the reporting screen.

Guam

Guam does not provide services to children 3 years of age and older.

Idaho

The state's data were submitted according to the 2008 data instructions because the 2009 Child Count and Settings instructions were not yet approved.

Illinois

1. Illinois uses active service authorizations in its centralized Cornerstone data system to determine the predominate settings as of the report date, Oct. 31, 2009.
2. For a variety of reasons outlined in OSEP's July 2007 Q & A document, children do not have any authorizations tied to an IFSP at any given time. The most common reasons are delays in finding a provider to deliver service in a natural setting and children with service coordination only. In most instances the evidence allowed the state to conclude that the predominate setting was in the home. However, after a careful reading of the Q & A document and other guidance and consideration of what the state data system could and could not verify, it was decided that it would be more accurate to distribute cases with no authorized services tied to an IFSP based on the distribution of cases where the predominate setting is clear. Cornerstone cannot definitively rule out some of the situations in the Q & A memo.
3. The proportion of children determined to be served predominately in the home was almost unchanged. The number change was almost equal to the total caseload decline because over 88 percent of the caseload was served predominately in the home.
4. The only numeric increase and the only proportionate increase were in community services. It is still the smallest of the three groups, but the program has been promoting it as an appropriate option in some situations. So, this number reflected ongoing program efforts.

5. The shift in the age of the caseload away from infants and toward the oldest children contributed to the increased proportion of children served in community settings. Children ages 2 through 3 are almost twice as likely to be served in community settings as children under age 1. The older children are more likely to be in day care.
6. The 9.4 percent decline in the number of children served predominately in other/non-natural settings reflected the continued, consistent effort by the program to reinforce state and federal rules emphasizing the delivery of services in natural settings. The consistent message starting with OSEP, supported by the Bureau of Early Intervention and its supporting partners, including the EI Training Center and service coordination agencies, resulted in a uniform approach in almost all areas of the state. The only area that remained problematic was Peoria.

Maine

Maine does not serve children ages 3 and over in Part C.

Massachusetts

The increase in the number of children whose primary setting is community-based was due to an error in data compilation. In the past, children having a home visit service outside of the home were included under the home visit category. Children included under other have the following setting as their primary setting: EI-only child group, 70.4 percent of children; center-individual service 26.9 percent of children; a residential treatment center for 1.6 percent of children; and a hospital for 1.2 percent of children. Race/ethnicity was estimated for 5.1 percent of total children. There were 85.7 percent children whose primary setting was the home, 13.1 percent whose primary setting was community-based, and 1.2 percent whose primary setting was not home or community-based.

Michigan

Michigan had 94 multi-racial children, distributed to the five categories.

Mississippi

Mississippi does not serve children ages 3 years or older.

The state's goal has been to increase services in natural environments. The percentage of services provided primarily in natural environments has increased. The decrease in the percentage of children served in community settings was likely due to socioeconomic factors. The state's database is not configured to capture the reasons for changes in location unless the change is to another setting.

Northern Marianas

All data were considered valid and reliable and were verified.

New Hampshire

The state reported 67 children with a race/ethnicity of multi-racial.

New York

New York Part C does not serve children ages 3 or older. However, under certain circumstances, children ages 3 or older are allowed to remain in the Part C program until the effective date of their Committee of Preschool Special Education. The numbers reported excluded 421 children over age 3 who were enrolled in the NY Early Intervention Program on Oct. 1, 2009. New York does not serve at-risk children.

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North Carolina

Community-based setting included child care facility, Head Start, and other community-based settings. Other includes center-based early intervention, children's developmental services agency, inpatient hospital, outpatient service facility, and residential facility.

Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico Early Intervention Services System has not adopted Part B due process procedures, so it does not serve children older than 3.

Rhode Island

This year, Rhode Island reported its data in accordance with the Department of Education's 2007 Guidance for Race or Ethnicity. The Rhode Island Early Intervention Care Coordination System (RIEICCS) allows providers to check multiple races in compliance with the OMB standards. For this report, the following reporting categories were used based on family report: Hispanic/Latino of any race; for individuals who were non-Hispanic/Latin, Rhode Island used the five federal categories; Rhode Island used two or more races when two or more races were selected for non-Hispanic/Latino. None of the children (0 percent) was without identified race. RIEICCS system data were validated through a raw data download to an Access database. Enrollment continued to increase. Changes to the collection of race have now been fully implemented for over a year. Race data for children already enrolled were not updated when the system changed. Race data collection policies were also re-distributed to all providers. These factors along with the continued increase in enrollment, caused a change from the previous year's count. The selection of Hispanic above all races accounted for the increase in this population and decrease in

other populations. A total of 47 percent Hispanics selected white as their race, and 11 percent listed black as their race. These data may change due to future edits, updates, and corrections. Please review report print dates when comparing data.

Tennessee

Tennessee Division of Special Education staff verified these data were accurate.

Tennessee had a significant decrease in the primary setting of home. Tennessee had a significant increase in the primary settings of community and other. Data were drilled down to the Tennessee Early Intervention System-Point of Entry level. Two of the three largest urban districts and one suburban district experienced a significant change. Personnel were retrained in 2009 on reporting primary setting categories thus revealing a significant change in the primary settings.

Texas

The increase in the number of children whose primary service setting was a community-based setting reflected ongoing efforts to provide services in appropriate and inclusive natural learning environments. There was a significant decrease in other settings when reflected as a percentage, but not so in terms of the actual number because of the small number in this setting category.

Utah

Data were collected and compiled using BTOTS. All contracting early intervention providers verify annually that their BTOTS data are complete and accurate and that they collect race and ethnicity information per OSEP's revised guidelines. Significant year-to-year changes were observed across all categories of Utah's settings data from Dec. 1, 2008, to Dec. 1, 2009. The number of children served in home and community settings increased, while the number decreased in the other setting category. Over the last 18 months, the Baby Watch Early Intervention state staff reviewed and discussed settings data with early intervention providers and conducted trainings about the importance of serving children and families in the natural environment.

Virginia

Virginia's Part C System does not serve children older than 3. This data submission included 1,034 infants and toddlers receiving FAPE through the public schools.

Virgin Islands

Virgin Islands Part C does not serve children age 3 and older.

Washington

The Washington State Early Intervention Program does not provide services for children over the age 3. The Washington State Early Intervention Program does not provide services for at-risk infants and toddlers.

West Virginia

Overall, the settings data numbers decreased, due to WV Part C narrowing its eligibility criteria. Changes in eligibility criteria went into effect May 1, 2009, and resulted from the need to ensure that funds were available to serve eligible children most in need of services.

2008-09 Exiting

Alabama

Currently, Alabama does not use the category Part B eligible.

Arizona

AzEIP continued intensive data validation and clean-up efforts with local program data providers. The Total Exits count declined for this report year as a result of new AzEIP data programming efforts that have reduced the number of duplicate names in the raw data resulting from spelling variations on children's names.

The number of infants and toddlers reported in the Part B eligible category increased as a result of improved local reporting.

The number of infants and toddlers reported in the Part B eligibility not determined category dropped due to improved data validation efforts and improved reporting of exit data by local programs.

Arizona does not provide early intervention services to children over age 3.

Colorado

Colorado experienced a 42 percent increase in the number of children exiting early intervention during the year. This was due to the rapid growth in the total amount of children found eligible and served in the Part C system. While the number of children who exited the system not eligible for Part B and the number of children who exited due to parent withdrawal increased by 80 percent and 103 percent, respectively, the percentage of increase in relation to the total number of infants and toddlers exiting grew by only a small percentage.

Connecticut

Connecticut estimated the race/ethnicity for 159 children who had an unknown race/ethnicity or multiple race/ethnicities.

Data were collected and compiled using BTOTS, Utah's statewide data system. Each contracting early intervention provider verified the BTOTS data were complete and accurate. BTOTS data included 22 infants and toddlers exiting during the reporting period with ethnicity other. Per discussion with Westat, these data were included in the exit reason totals but not distributed across the racial categories. Year-to-year changes from 2007-2008 to 2008-2009 reflect the introduction of a Part B database to track Part C to Part B referrals, which did not come fully online until late 2009.

Florida

Children for whom attempts to contact are unsuccessful are not included in the exit data set until they have reached age 3 in accordance with directives from OSEP.

Florida implemented changes in the data collection codes for disposition/exit effective Dec. 10, 2007. These changes included the category of "P" (Part B eligibility not determined) to differentiate between those children who were referred to the LEA and had an IEP by third birthday and those children whose eligibility for Part B was still pending as of the child's third birthday. Training for the appropriate use of code P was provided statewide on Dec. 5, 2007. Additional training was provided during regional meetings in spring 2008. This change in data collection practice resulted in an increase in the number of children exiting as Part B eligibility not determined. Florida was notified by its OSEP State Contact in June and July 2008 that children with an IFSP could not be closed as attempts to contact unsuccessful until they reached the age of 3. Florida's previous practice was to exit children as attempts to contact unsuccessful upon repeated unsuccessful attempts to reach the family, regardless of the child's age. This practice was changed, and the result shows a decrease in the number of children closed in the attempts to contact unsuccessful category.

Georgia

In Georgia, there was an increase in the proportion of children Exiting Part C services who were eligible for Part B, while the proportion of children who completed their IFSP prior to reaching the maximum age for Part C services decreased from 2007 to 2008. Referrals to Georgia's Part C program increased over the past 2 years as a result of improved collaboration among the state's birth to 5 programs.

These referrals were targeted to identify children that were high-risk for a developmental disability. As a result, the total number of children served by Part C increased. The proportion of children who completed their IFSP prior to reaching the maximum age for Part C services decreased because these children had more involved needs and required more time to meet their outcomes. Similarly, the proportion of children Exiting Part C services who were eligible for Part B increased because the children's needs necessitated participation in Part C until they reached age 3.

Guam

Guam Part C does not serve children 3 years of age and older.

The total number of infants and toddlers exiting Part C decreased. The decrease in the number of infants and toddlers exiting Part C was due to better case management, which was a result of better training and more accurate information received from parents. Service Coordinators increased efforts to engage hard-to-reach families by rescheduling appointments by sending out notifications to family's mailing address, making job visits to contact families, and meeting with families to provide motivation to continue early intervention services when families were considering declining all early intervention services.

The total number of Asian/Pacific Islanders exiting Part C decreased. The decrease in the number of Asian/Pacific Islander infants and toddlers ages birth through 2 was due to the overall decrease in exiting data. With the majority of the population (Asian/Pacific Islanders) at 99 percent, this appeared to be part of the normal trend that was also mirrored in the Guam Part C Child Count data.

The total number of male infants and toddlers exiting Part C decreased. This was consistent and a direct result of the decrease in the total number of children exiting Part C services.

The total number of female infants and toddlers exiting Part C decreased. This was consistent and a direct result of the decrease in the total number of children exiting Part C services.

Indiana

Indiana does not have a policy for children with disabilities determined to be eligible for Part B, continuing in Part C. Indiana adjusted child counts for race and gender as requested on Jan. 14, 2010.

Illinois

The total number of exits increased by 5.5% from the previous year. This reflected past caseload growth. All other changes from the last report must be viewed from that starting point. The increase in Hispanic and Asian exits in excess of the overall rate of growth reflected more rapid increases in those caseloads. Conversely, the relative decline in the black caseload relative to the other racial and ethnic groups reflected a stable or slightly declining black caseload. The program closely watched this trend and determined it reflected a decline in the black birth rate. The black participation rate remained stable, even as the population's proportion of the caseload declined. The largest percentage increases were in Part B eligible and not Part B eligible, with referral. Those increases reflected continued efforts by both Part C and Part B to press for eligibility determination of all children turning age 3. The racial/ethnic differences reflected the changes in the caseload overall, with the largest increase for Asians and Hispanics. The increase in the number of cases closed due to inability to contact the family was somewhat offset by the relative decline in the proportion of cases closed due to family withdrawal. Illinois generally groups those two categories together as terminations for family reasons. However, this increase was also explained by an overall decline in the financial status of families, which resulted in more unstable living situations.

Kentucky

Kentucky does not collect data for exit reason Part B eligible, continuing in Part C. Children in Kentucky are no longer eligible for Part C on their third birthday.

Kansas

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Part C, and the Kansas State Department of Education, Part B, did not choose to implement the continuation of early intervention (Part C) services option until kindergarten entry as described in 20 U.S.C. 1435(c).

Maine

Maine had a decrease in the proportion of children Exiting Part C services who are eligible for Part B. This was because the reporting period was changed. The reporting period changed from the 12 months prior to the December 1 Child Count date to the Maine Department of Education fiscal year in which the Child Count is contained. Previously, the period from which exiting data would have been drawn for Exiting counts related to the Dec. 1, 2008, Child Count would have been Dec. 7, 2007-Nov. 1, 2007. The period was changed to July 2, 2008-June 30, 2009. Second, children age 3 who were served by Child Development Services in the Part B 619 program were erroneously included in the counts. The calculation was adjusted to prevent these children from being included in the future.

Massachusetts

The increase in the percentage of total children reflected under completion of IFSP prior to reaching maximum age for Part C was due to lead agency guidance to local early intervention programs regarding re-determination of eligibility when a child is making significant progress and meeting IFSP goals. The decrease in the percentage of children under Part B, eligibility not determined was due to continued data verification measures taken to ensure documentation of completion of transition data. Trainings provided

at the end of calendar year 2008 emphasized data validation for each of the 618 reports. Continued communications with programs during fiscal year 2008 regarding the Commonwealth's focused monitoring indicators also increased the data quality of transition information. The Part B eligible, continuing in Part C category was not completed because the Commonwealth's application for funds does not include a policy under which parents of children with disabilities eligible for services under Section 619 and previously receiving services under Part C may continue to receive early intervention services under Part C until the child is eligible to enter kindergarten. Race/ethnicity was estimated for 1,048 children.

Michigan

The reporting period was Dec. 2, 2007 through Dec. 1, 2008. Page 1 did not allow these months. Michigan had 47 multi-racial children exit, who were distributed into the categories Asian American, black, Hispanic, and white. The increased focus on progress measurement helped to identify children who met their developmental target. The economic situation in the state has resulted in fewer early childhood programs and/or slots for children leaving Part C. The increased focus on progress measurement resulted in fewer cases where the eligibility was not determined.

Mississippi

Mississippi's reason for the decrease in the proportion of children exiting Part C who exited without a referral was due to the instructions given to the staff. The database has a dropdown menu from which one option was selected. In the week prior to the Nov. 1, 2009, reporting, staff were given more specific instructions for reporting these data because they could not tell from the database that exit to other program or exit, no referral were to be used for children who were not eligible for Part B services. Staff corrected the data to meet the reporting requirements.

The reason for the increase in the proportion of children who reached the maximum age for Part C services and whose eligibility for Part B services was not determined was not due to a decrease in LEA notification of potentially eligible children. The expected result of the joint transition training of Part B and Part C staff was an increase in the number of children exiting Part C for whom Part B eligibility had been determined. The reason for the decrease in the proportion of children exiting Part C who were eligible for Part B was not captured by Part C in Mississippi. Part C staff depended on local school district staff to report whether the child was determined to be eligible for Part B services. Whether the decrease in the 618 data was due to an actual decrease cannot be determined by Part C in Mississippi.

New Jersey

The New Jersey Early Intervention System does not continue to provide Part C services for children that are age 3 and Part B eligible.

New Mexico

There appeared to be an error in our new online data system in which the exit category not eligible for Part B, exit with no referrals" was not appearing as an option when a child exited the system. This will be addressed with the software manufacturer and corrected as soon as possible.

New York

The general instructions for Table 3 require that the 6,033 children turning 3 prior to July 1, 2008, to June 30, 2009, be excluded from the report. A total of 4,484 children with unknown race/ethnicity were

distributed by apportioning the unknown children within each county in direct proportion to the distribution of children in that county with known race/ethnicity or, for New York City, apportioning the unknown race/ethnicity using the results of a match of New York City EI eligible with the race/ethnicity reported by their birth mother from birth certificate records. Nineteen children with unknown gender were distributed by apportioning them in direct proportion to the distribution of children with known gender. In Exit reports prior to PY 2003-04, children moving out of county were assigned to exit category moved out of state. For the current reporting period, 867 children fell into this category. In an effort to determine their true program status or exit category, these children were matched against both enrolled children and children closed during the program year. Matching criteria included the child's name, sex, date of birth, Social Security Number, Medicaid ID, and mother's maiden name. Based on the results of this match, 384 children were found to be enrolled in the EIP in another county and were removed from the Exit report; 438 children under 3 years of age could not be located (unable to be matched) and were categorized as attempts to contact unsuccessful; and 45 children over 3 years of age unable to be matched were placed in Part B, eligibility not determined. Seven children remained who exited the EIP during the year with a NYS exit reason that did not explicitly correspond to a federal exit category and whose status could not be resolved by any of the previous steps. Based on additional guidance from Westat, these children were assigned to an exit category based on their age at time of program exit. All of these children were under age 3, and were placed in the category attempts to contact unsuccessful. New York State continues to report race using five categories. Although the new system, which allows the entry of multiple races, has been implemented, many children who were exiting were entered using the old race categories. Children with more than one race indicated were classified using a priority system, in which any indication of race other than White caused a child to be assigned to that race, with priority given to the minority classification with the greatest representation in cases where more than one race other than White were indicated.

Northern Marianas

All data were verified and were accurate.

North Carolina

1. Completion of IFSP prior to reaching maximum age for Part C is the sum of the state categories does not meet eligibility criteria for ITP, which means that an enrolled child no longer meets eligibility due to developmental improvement and completed IFSP prior to third birthday.
2. Part B eligible is the sum of the state categories aged out; entered preschool program (Part B) and aged out; eligible for preschool, family refused.
3. Part B eligible continuing in Part C does not apply to North Carolina.
4. Not eligible for Part B, exit to other programs is the sum of aged out; not eligible for preschool program (Part B) and aged out; not eligible for Part B-referred to other programs.
5. Not eligible for Part B, exit with no referrals is the state category aged out; not eligible for Part B - exit with no referrals.
6. Part B eligibility not determined is the sum of state categories aged out; unknown eligibility for preschool program and the number of children who reached their third birthday who either did not have a closure report or were in the state exit category other.
7. Deceased is the state category child expired.

8. Moved out of state is the state category moved, address unknown or out-of-state.
9. Withdrawal by parent (or guardian) is the sum of the state categories parent ended participation, no longer wants services; parent ended participation, no longer needs services; parent ended participation, dissatisfied with services; and parent discontinued.
10. Attempts to contact unsuccessful is the sum of the state categories lost to follow-up and unable to make contact and the number of children who did not reach their third birthday who were in the state exit category other. The number of children who enrolled in the North Carolina Part C program increased in the past year, which was due to the emphasis on targeted Child Find activities. This overall increase mirrored the increase in exits from the program. North Carolina made the transition to multiple races reporting for the 2008 reporting period. Therefore the number and percentage of children by race and ethnicity is not exactly comparable to the 2007 report.

Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico early intervention services system has not adopted Part B due process procedures.

Rhode Island

This year, RI reported its data in accordance with the Department of Education's 2007 Guidance for Race or Ethnicity. RIEICCS allows providers to check multiple races in compliance with the OMB standards. For this report, the following reporting categories were used based on family report: Hispanic/Latino of any race; for individuals who were non-Hispanic/Latino, the five federal categories were used; two or more races was used when two or more races were selected for non-Hispanic/Latino. State staff verified the RIEICCS numbers and proportionally distributed among the categories. The percentages of the categories were determined and the .002 percent of infants of toddlers was proportionally distributed among the categories. Enrollment increased in previous years therefore increasing discharges. Most categories did not show a substantial change from 2007. Race changes were not comparable to 2007 due to the change in race reporting guidelines. Staff will review race in detail in the future.

The state will share the list of children who were referred to Part B, but eligibility was not determined by their third birthday with the RI Department of Education by each local education agency (LEA) so that it can follow up with the status of these children.

The changes and improvements above, such as using the multi race category and increased enrollment were all factors that caused a change from the previous year's count of infants and toddlers in the Part B eligibility not determined category. The data were extracted from the statewide RIEICC system. These data may change due to future edits, updates, and corrections.

South Dakota

Of the children who were eligible for Part B, the parents declined services for 11 of those children. South Dakota does not have a policy that allows children who are eligible for Part B to continue receiving services in Part C after the age of 3.

Tennessee

Tennessee does not have a policy for children with disabilities determined to be eligible for Part B, continuing in Part C. Tennessee Division of Special Education staff verified these data are accurate.

Texas

There were increases of approximately 10 to 13 percent across most of the exit categories, including Part B eligible, exit to other program with referral, exit with no referral, deceased, parent withdrawal, and unable to contact. These were relatively consistent with an overall increase of 9 percent in the number of children exiting, a result, in part, of the overall and ongoing growth of the program.

Utah

Data were collected and compiled using BTOTS. Each contracting early intervention provider verified the BTOTS data were complete and accurate. BTOTS data included 22 infants and toddlers exiting during the reporting period with ethnicity other. Per discussion with Westat, these data were included in the exit reason totals but not distributed across the racial categories.

Virginia

Virginia does not have a policy whereby parents of children with disabilities who were eligible for services under IDEA Section 619 and previously received services under Part C may continue to receive early intervention services under Part C under Part C beyond age 3.

West Virginia

Children who exited with the reason not eligible for Part B, exiting without referrals were listed as parents did not consent to transition planning. Children who exited with the reason Part B not determined were listed as family requested referral not be made or were listed as referral has been made, awaiting Part B determination. Children who exited with the reason withdrawal by parent or guardian were listed as parents declined further IFSP services.

2008-09 Dispute Resolution

Alabama

Alabama Part C does not use Part B procedures.

Arkansas

The significant decrease in the number of complaints received during 2009 was a result of additional training, technical assistance, and corrective action measures provided to the Early Intervention providers and state staff personnel.

Arizona

Arizona does not use Part B procedures; the state uses Part C procedures.

California

California does not use Part B due process hearing procedures.

There was a significant increase in mediation activity in FY 08/09 over FY 07/08. Although the OSEP-required change in California's mediation process did not formally occur until June 2009, there was much discussion and heralding of this imminent change throughout the spring of 2009. This focus and

heightened awareness of the revised mediation process may have been a major contributing factor to the significant increase in this activity.

There was also an increase in the number of complaints pending and a decrease in the number of complaints that were withdrawn or dismissed. These changes were the result of California's change in policy regarding procedural safeguards. As noted in the OSEP technical assistance visit of 2008, California was not in compliance with federal requirements regarding the options of filing a state complaint or request mediation. California's policy was clarified and communicated to the Early Start community, emphasizing that both state complaints and mediation are available at any time and for any matter related to Part C requirements. This certainly focused attention on both mediations and complaints. Consequently, California had an increase in mediation and complaints.

Florida

Florida uses Part C procedures rather than Part B procedures for hearings.

Illinois

The increases in caseload numbers and provider recruitment/retention issues, which have been aggravated by the state fiscal situation and resulting payment delays, resulted in an increase in the number of complaints from families regarding Early Intervention services. The increase in the number of written, signed complaints resulted in an increase in the number of reports that were issued with extended timelines. Extensions were required to allow staff to investigate complaints with delays attributable to waits to receive additional information from families or documentation from service providers. The increase in the number of complaints dismissed resulted from the Department taking a closer look at the outcomes of the complaint process to identify those that had been resolved by the complainant and the local service provider.

Indiana

Indiana did not report counts in those reporting categories relating to Part B procedures and guidelines that Indiana Part C has not adopted. Indiana had one complaint that was categorized as report within extended timeline, as the written decision from the lead agency to the complainant was provided more than 60 days after the written, signed complaint was filed, but within an appropriately extended timeline. Exceptional circumstance was noted, as the complainant submitted a complaint and was subsequently not able to be reached after multiple attempts (phone calls, follow-up letters). The complainant was provided an additional amount of time in order to allow for adequate opportunity to respond, resulting in the written decision being provided to the complainant on the 63rd day.

Maryland

Maryland attributed the increase in the number of mediations *not held* to an increase in the number of cases where the parties were successful in resolving their disputes informally, prior to the scheduled mediation.

Mississippi

The increase in complaints with reports issued in FFY 2008 was because a major provider in the coastal region stopped services suddenly, resulting in the filing of 18 complaints. This occurred in the first few months of 2009.

Louisiana

The state had an increase in the number of complaints with reports issued and a decrease in complaints withdrawn or dismissed. The Part C program moved to a new administrative office in 2007. The new office has a strong policy regarding complaints. The increased number of complaints was due to aggressive outreach by regional staff to identify and respond to parent complaints. The decrease in complaints withdrawn or dismissed was because the previous administrative office (before 2007) dismissed complaints for not including all of the required content. The current administrative office is committed to thoroughly obtaining the required content and acting on all complaints. Therefore, fewer complaints were dismissed.

New Hampshire

New Hampshire Part C does not use Part B due process procedures.

New Jersey

New Jersey Part C does not use Part B due process procedures.

Ohio

The state does not use the Part C procedures.

Oklahoma

Oklahoma uses IDEA Part B regulations for due process hearing requests.

South Dakota

South Dakota has a history of limited due process hearings in Part B and none in Part C. This is due to a strong commitment to resolution of issues and parent concerns before formal dispute resolution is necessary. The Part C staff and service coordinators collaborate closely to make sure families understand their parent rights and to resolve issues that arise in a timely manner and families may at any time request formal dispute resolution.

Washington

Washington has not adopted Part B Procedures for resolution meetings or settlement agreements. Washington does not follow decisions within timeline or within extended timeline using Part B due process hearing procedures.

Wisconsin

Wisconsin's Part C system does not use the Part B due process procedures.