

Part C Child Count and Settings

SY 2018-19 Reporting Year

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.

Arizona

- The State provided the following response to a large Year to Year change: Children receiving services in the other setting age birth through 2: During SY 2018-19, the lead agency increased the frequency at which local early intervention programs were provided settings data to review and ensure accuracy. During the November 16, 2018 meeting, stakeholders around the state provided detailed input as to the strengths and reasons Arizona continues to see an increase in children receiving early intervention services in the home and decrease in services in another setting. Stakeholders credit the success to quality local early intervention providers who make families comfortable with having teams in their homes. Services provided in the home setting have increased as a result of the implementation of team-based early intervention services. The lead agency provides natural learning opportunities, training for providers that are newly hired to early intervention, as well as for providers who have been in early intervention for a period of time. The focus on natural learning opportunities enables all providers to learn evidenced-based practices that support infants' and toddlers' learning through everyday experiences and interactions with familiar people in familiar contexts of their home and community.

Arkansas

- The State provided the following responses to large Year to Year changes:
- Arkansas is now serving more children, Birth through 2, in the Natural Environment. This increase was due to the new Child Find plan which has activities related to information and outreach to primary referral sources.
 - Arkansas is serving more children in the community, therefore, there was a decrease in the number of children, Birth through 2, being served in Other Settings. This decrease was due to the effectiveness of the trainings made available to stress the importance of service in the natural environment.
 - There was an increase in the number of Hispanic/Latino children served. This increase was due to increased awareness via trainings, technical assistance and community outreach. We brought more attention to the fact that there is a Spanish interpreter service available.

California

The correct number of infants (birth to 1) served by California in FY 2018-19 is 5,105.

Delaware

- The State provided the following responses to large Year to Year changes:
- Continued outreach, stressing the importance of home/community based services, has caused an increase in the 2 to 3 year old group total by Home setting. However, the decreases in Home/Community settings in the other groups correlate with the increase in services being provided in Other Settings. The decrease in service providers able to conduct services in a natural environment has impacted the Home/Community totals.

- More families are identifying as being of two or more races. This has caused an increase in the data being reported in the Two or more Races category, and a decrease in the Asian, Black or African American and White categories. Families identifying as Hispanic/Latino has caused an increase in that category.

District of Columbia

Change in eligibility; increased number of children served.

Florida

- The State provided the following responses to large Year to Year changes:

- The increase of delivering services in the community setting was due to the various strategies implemented by the Local Early Steps programs.
The following strategies have ensured that a child was served in the natural environment, including community settings as requested by the family:
 - Developed partnership with local organizations to increase number of referrals
 - Educating local staff and providers with the definition of a natural environment
 - Local Programs will authorize services that are in a natural environment setting, unless outcomes on the IFSP cannot be achieved satisfactorily in a natural environment
 - Recruitment of provider agencies that will render services in the natural environment and adding this clause in the provider's contract
 - Local Programs increased communication and coordination with family to ensure that services are rendered in natural environments
 - Training Service Coordinators with using the appropriate setting selection for services in the Early Steps Data System
- The Early Steps State Office implemented at-risk eligibility effective November 1, 2018. The increase in at risk's count is due to children with at-risk condition being referred or existing active children switching to at-risk eligibility.

Georgia

- The State provided the following response to a large Year to Year change: Birth through 2 Total by Other Setting: For this reporting period, we had an increase in the number of children served in local clinics. Additionally, we experienced a 10% decrease in our providers who service our families. This had a significant impact and limited provider capacity especially throughout the rural areas of Georgia where very few providers are willing to travel in the district.

Guam

- The State provided the following response to a large Year to Year change: Due to the small population of Special education students on Guam, any increase or decrease in reporting numbers from one year to the next will result in higher percentages of differences and therefore require a data note to be submitted. The increase for Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islanders is directly related to the total increase of all reported children from 2017-18 to 2018-19. The amount of Pacific Islanders compared to the total children remains similar to the previous 2 years.

Illinois

- Various program initiatives have affected the efforts of ensuring quality of the data. Some of the efforts include - hiring a full-time Data Manager, working with the providers to ensure input of quality data, and increase in frequency of data review.

Indiana

- The State provided the following response to a large Year to Year change: In December 2017, the state office discovered an issue with the claims system that was incorrectly marking services as taking place in other settings as opposed to home or community. The issue was corrected in the summer of 2018.

Iowa

- The State provided the following response to a large Year to Year change: Birth through 2 Total by Other Setting. The increase from the SY 2017-18 collection for this category is due to a coding change - some of the "Other" category cases should have been coded as "Home or Community-Based Settings". Iowa has identified a need for training on entering the correct setting code for this data collection and is in the process of building a new special education data system that will assist in entering correct settings data.

Kansas

- The State provided the following responses to large Year to Year changes:

- The increase in Total Two or More Races appears to be unrelated to any EI practices but rather relates to the increase of children served from the last reporting year.
- The increase in Birth through 2 Total by Community is due to an increase in children receiving services in child care. This natural environment has been utilized more for a variety of reasons. One reason families chose to receive early intervention (EI) services in a child care setting is so that the child care provider can become more involved in EI services since the child spends a large portion of their day there. Child care has also been a good option for providers/families to meet when there have been safety concerns in the family home or when the child care has been a constant in the child's life while other settings have been changing – foster care placements, parental disputes and divorce, etc.

Kentucky

- The cumulative number are those children who had an active individualized family service plan (IFSP) at any time during the time period. It does not include the 1068 children who were referred, screened, evaluated, and determined not eligible or whose parents declined services.

Maine

- The state provided clarification on what is included in the definition of community (On Section A Birth Through 2 Total By Community) to indicate that services provided in a childcare setting are considered community. In prior years, childcare was improperly labeled as other.

Massachusetts

- Children under "Other Setting" are receiving early intervention (EI) only child group or center-individual service for their primary setting or are receiving all EI services at a hospital or residential treatment center.

Michigan

- The State provided the following response to a large Year to Year change: The large increase in the Michigan Asian American child count is caused mainly by a continued influx of Japanese businesses in the Novi area (Oakland County, Northwest of Detroit).

Minnesota

- The State provided the following response to a large Year to Year change: First, the population of Minnesota is becoming increasingly more diverse which accounts for some of the observed increase. Second, our child find efforts have included meaningful efforts to identify all eligible infants and toddlers. To that end, greater investments have been made in translating information into Spanish, Hmong and Somali languages. The state is pleased at the positive impact that these efforts have had.

- The Minnesota Department of Education wishes to acknowledge that this data represents a revised count from what has been reported on MDE's website. Minneapolis public schools discovered an error in their reporting. The department was able to incorporate their revisions into this reporting of infants and toddlers served through early intervention. These data represent an accurate count to the best of our knowledge.

Mississippi

- The State provided the following response to a large Year to Year change: Birth through 2 Total by Community: the program has been collaborating more with Childcare Licensure and Early Headstart to gain access for providers to see infants and toddlers in the community. This has led to an increase in services been offered in the Community Setting.

Nebraska

- The State provided the following responses to large Year to Year changes:

- The increased count of 3 year old children served in the Home can be accounted for due to more accurate reporting. Prior, it is believed that those children were not included by the district and not seen as their students.
- The data variations in Cumulative Counts by Race/ Ethnicity (Section E) are likely due to the implementation of our new data collection system for SY 2018-19. We are getting data directly from the school district's Student Information Systems in this system. We feel this has improved the collection of Race & Ethnicity data. The total change in this population was negligible; rather it is a redistribution of the children amount the various race and ethnicity categories.

New Hampshire

- The State provided the following responses to large Year to Year changes:

- The increase under Section A – Birth through 2 Total by Community is correct and reflects the increase in children receiving services in their childcare community setting.
- The increase under Section E – Cumulative Count Infant/Toddler - Total Hispanic/Latino is correct. Throughout NH there has been an increase focus on developmental screening. This heightened outreach has increased referrals throughout varies populations.

- There are about 30 infants and toddlers whose families chose not to answer (blank entry of race/ethnicity in the data system) for NH Part C "Total cumulative count of Infants and Toddlers receiving early intervention services by Race/Ethnicity." This resulted in a lower number than that

provided in “Total cumulative count of Infants and Toddlers receiving early intervention services by Gender.”

New Mexico

- The State provided the following response to a large Year to Year change: The State of New Mexico has verified the data submitted for 2017-18 and 2018-19 to be accurate. Over the past 2 years, the ICC Subcommittee for Native American Children has recognized the drop of Native American children served in New Mexico. As a result, The New Mexico FIT Program has worked for the last 2 years with the ICC Subcommittee to increase public awareness in tribal communities and has worked state wide with providers to improve the data quality when collecting race and ethnicity data from families enrolling in the Family Infant Toddler (FIT) program in New Mexico. Additionally, the New Mexico FIT program saw referrals increase 10.86% from FFY18 to FFY19. As a result of these 2 factors, New Mexico saw a large increase in minority race numbers and large than usual birth to one and 1 to 2 categories.

New York

- New York does not serve at-risk children. New York 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 if they are found eligible for Preschool Special Education prior to turning 3; they remain in Part C Program until the effective date of their IEP. The numbers reported in Section A exclude children over age three who were enrolled in the NY Early Intervention Program on October 1, 2018.

North Carolina

- The NC Infant Toddler Program continuously provides guidance and technical assistance, as needed, to the local programs to ensure that all children enrolled in the Infant Toddler Program are receiving services in the natural environment.

North Dakota

- The State provided the following response to a large Year to Year change: North Dakota has experienced an increase in population for 2- to 3-year-olds and those identifying as African American or two or more races in two regions of the state. These increases are due to oil activity and New Americans moving into the state. According to US Census data, between 2010-2018, a county in a Western region of the state grew by 57.8%, with an increase of 5.9% from 2017-18, making it the fastest growing county in the US. The same region noted an increase in children entering the program between the ages of 2-3 due to an increase in speech language referrals from physicians. In an Eastern region, there has been an increase in New Americans moving to the area, resulting in population growth of individuals who identify as two or more races or black or African American.

Ohio

- The State provided the following responses to large Year to Year changes:

- Year-to-year differences among children primarily receiving services in the Community or in Other settings appear to be due to typical year-to-year variation.
- Year-to-year differences in the number of children identified as Hispanic and Asian are likely related to an overall increase in the number of children served as well as typical year-to-year variation.

Oklahoma

- The State provided the following responses to a large Year to Year change: Data variation in "Other Setting" is due to a growing need to provide services to outlying families in central locations.

Pennsylvania

- The State provided the following responses to a large Year to Year change: Pennsylvania reviewed the increase of reported total of "Two or More Races" and concluded this change is aligned with the live births in Pennsylvania from 2015-2017. There has been a gradual decrease in births of children who are white and a gradual increase in births of children who are black and other/unknown. There are similar decreases and increases in the counts reports for children in Early Intervention in Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania also evaluated the percent of children in each race/ethnic group amongst the total children reported. While the change from year to year was flagged, the representation from year to year across all of the categories is consistent.

Puerto Rico

- The State provided the following responses to a large Year to Year change: Although the number of live births has been steadily decreasing for the past decade, we have experienced a large increase in the number of infants and toddlers from birth to 2 that were receiving early intervention services in community settings, and the total of toddlers from 1 to 2 that were receiving early intervention services by December 1st, 2018. After analyzing the data, we have concluded that as day to day routines have become steady in most of the regions after the back-to-back hurricanes of 2017, more families were available to receive early intervention services. Also, the communication network has been fixed so communication between the service coordinators and families has been easier during this year. Regions have reported that some families that exited the program because they moved to US mainland or because of unsuccessful attempts of contact, have returned, thus the large change. Largest change in number of infants and toddlers from birth to 2 receiving services in community settings is seen in the San Juan/Metro area. It is common that more working families that have returned to their routines, prefer to receive the services in community settings and other caregivers participate in the sessions. As child find activities are completed in all regions and more families become available after the hurricanes, Bayamón and Fajardo have experienced the largest changes in enrolling children from 1 to 2 in Early Intervention. We have also received almost 400 more referrals of infants and toddlers 1 to 2 in 2018, when compared to 2017. These factors have contributed to the large increase reported in these 2 categories.

South Dakota

- The State provided the following responses to large Year to Year changes:

- For Section A – Total birth to 1, the state reviewed the guidance Informed Clinical Opinion and Medical Diagnosis and determined that new guidance was provided for FFY 2018.
- For Section B – Total Hispanic/Latino, certain regions of the state saw increased Hispanic population due to availability of jobs in FFY 2018.
- For Section B – Total American Indian or Alaska Native, a school district on one of South Dakota's nine reservations has joined with the reservation to offer a second early intervention program in conjunction with their developmental clinic.

Tennessee

- The State provided the following responses to large Year to Year changes:

- TEIS is serving more families in community settings (i.e., daycare environments). Even though Home and Other grew during the period in question, those settings populations grew more slowly than did the Community population.
- Research by district and county levels revealed a greater than average population growth along the Interstate-24 corridor in Tennessee (e.g. Chattanooga, Murfreesboro, and Nashville). All demographic groups other than the two that showed the smallest population (American Indian/Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander) had a significant change in growth in the aforementioned geographic corridor.
- TEIS believes the procedural change to remove screening from the eligibility determination process continues to impact the number of referrals. All referrals now go straight to evaluation for eligibility. This process was fully implemented July 1, 2018 utilizing contractors in the three grand regions of the state. TEIS has seen a significant increase in the number of children qualifying for services with this now, statewide, procedural change. Along with this change from screening to evaluation, referrals into the system can now be made conveniently through the TEIS website.

Texas

- The State provided the following response to a large Year to Year change: The decrease in Section E - Total Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander is reflective of the served population counts for the time period January 2018 through December 2018. The one day counts as seen in Section B, Total Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander showed a decrease from the previous year as well.

Virginia

- This submission includes 1043 children served under free and appropriate public education (FAPE) through the school system.

Washington

- The State provided the following responses to large Year to Year changes: Overall, the state noted that both parents/guardians and local individual agency staff responsible for this data collection, appear to have an increased understanding and familiarity with this newer federal data reporting field. Responses to specific data questions are summarized below:

- Birth through 2 Total by Other Setting. The increase in the number of children served in an "Other" setting is accurate as reported. In-depth data analysis indicates the majority of the increase in children being served in an "Other" setting is concentrated in Eastern Washington, specifically within the geographic service area of Spokane County. Further drill down identified one Early Intervention Provider Agency (EIPA) with 29% of the total children enrolled being served in a setting other than the home or community. Targeted technical assistance has been initiated with leadership in the EIPA, and will continue through the first quarter of FFY 2019.
- Section B: Child Count and Settings by Race/Ethnicity. Peripheral data analysis addressing each of the three data inquiries (Black or African American, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Two or More Races) related to total child counts by race/ethnicity, by geographic region, type of local lead agency, and levels of tenure was completed. There were no emerging patterns or trends identified, rather the increases were relative across the state. Of note, the changes are magnified as a result of the small n-sizes, therefore are not significant in nature.

- Section E: Cumulative Child Count by Race/Ethnicity and Gender. The increase in the overall number of children being served in this racial/ethnic group “Two or more races” is accurate as submitted. The ESIT Program experienced a nearly 10% increase in the total number of children enrolled in the program overall. The increase represented in this data set did not impact the representativeness of children who are reported in the Two or More Races group, in relation to program composition.

West Virginia

- The State provided the following response to a large Year to Year change: Review of the counts of infants & toddlers receiving services in the community setting indicates this change was accurate and more infants & toddlers were reported to have their primary setting as home rather than community setting. WV also saw a year to year increase in the number infants & toddlers reported as Hispanic/Latino. This data is accurate and can be attributed to increases in yearly child counts and the general population increase of Hispanic/Latinos in the state.