

Part C Child Count and Settings

SY 2019-20 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.

Alaska

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- Children receiving services in the community setting did increase from SY 2018-19 to SY 2019-20.

American Samoa

- Helping Hands Part C American Samoa processed a number of referrals during this reporting year. However, only a little more than half were placed on an individualized family service plan (IFSP).

Arizona

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- Children identified as receiving services in the other setting age birth through 2:
 - During 2019, the Lead Agency increased the frequency at which local early intervention programs were provided their settings data to review and ensure accuracy on a more regular basis. Stakeholders, including local early intervention service providers, around the state provided detailed input as to the strengths and reasons Arizona continues to see a trend of an increase in children receiving early intervention services in the home and decrease in services in other settings.

The Lead Agency provides a Natural Learning Opportunities training for newly hired and experienced early intervention providers. The focus on natural learning opportunities enables all early intervention providers to acquire knowledge in 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. Due to the focus on natural learning opportunities within the State, stakeholders report that in instances where services are provided in other settings, the early intervention providers now make a more concerted effort to also see the child and family in the home, in order to ensure strategies are able to be implemented in the natural environment through familiar contexts. Essentially, services in the other settings are seen and used as a supplement to more natural environments, with the primary setting for most children within the State being the home. Stakeholders credit the success to highly skilled 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 supports and services with a focus on natural learning opportunities. Arizona is dedicated to the implementation of evidenced-based services for children under age three.

Arkansas

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- Arkansas is now serving more children, Birth through 2, in the Community. This increase was due to our Child Find plan which has activities related to information and outreach to primary referral sources.
- Arkansas is serving more children in their natural environment, 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.
- The increase in Black or African American children served is due to the increased efforts of the Child Find plan and trainings.
- The increase in children of 2 or more races is a result of the increased efforts of the Child Find plan and trainings.
- The increase in the number of Hispanic/Latino children served 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.

Colorado

- Although totals do not match for each category the data mismatch is less than 1% across all categories. This is the result of an error in our reporting software that was not able to be addressed by the child count deadline.

Connecticut

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- During this time, the system experienced an influx in referrals with an increase in children who were determined to be eligible.

Florida

- The totals do not align due to a child within Florida's database having a race identified as unknown. As a result, and since EMAPS does not allow the entry of this category, the totals do not match.

Georgia

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- Birth through 2 Total by Other Setting: This increase was due to more children being served in local clinics. Georgia has limited provider capacity, especially throughout the rural parts of the state, and this affects offering services to children in a natural environment.
- Totals Birth to 1: This increase was due to Georgia's child find efforts that were focused on conducting outreach events, collaboration with birthing hospitals, local pediatricians and daycare centers to increase awareness of the Part C program.

Hawaii

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- A possible reason for the increase in the cumulative count of Black/African American children served is that according to the census population data for Hawaii, there was an increase in

children birth to three years of age for the Black/African American race category in 2018. The growth in population may have contributed to the increase in children served in Early Intervention.

Idaho

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- The biggest contributor to Idaho's high percentage variability in program count comes from the small base numbers. When the base is 30-40 individuals, a change in 10 families can cause a 30% perturbation and trigger a reply. This is a statistical fact, unrelated to the quality or consistency of service.
- Decline in Native American Counts: Our program continues to monitor its service to Native Americans, which shows quicker exits among this group than some other groups. Our program is working to understand this phenomenon, and increase children's length of engagement in the program, as appropriate. In some years, this churning results in lower counts.
- Increase in African American Counts: This increase is a happy coincidence. It does not correspond to a spike in African American population in the past three years, but rather to a higher percentage of engagement with the population. We strive to maintain strong service to this and all minority groups, yet we expect this high proportion may level in coming years as a statistical correction.

Illinois

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- 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.

Iowa

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- Increase in Birth through 2 Total by Community category: Iowa has increased providing services in natural environments using family guided routines-based interventions within the community, such as parks, libraries, grocery stores.
- Increase in Total Black or African American category: The rate of birth of African Americans is twice that of Caucasian births in Iowa over the last two years, which could affect the increase.

Kansas

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- Increase in "Total Black or African American" children served: While Kansas' early intervention (EI) programs strive to accurately report the counts in this category, some issues are beyond their control. There is a great deal of population movement in these programs, with quantities varying from year to year.

Kentucky

- The cumulative number only reflects children who had an active individualized family service plan (IFSP). Children who were screened, evaluated, and declined enrollment are not included in the cumulative count.

- Kentucky only serves children with an established medical condition known to or highly likely to cause a disability and children with a significant developmental delay.

Maine

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- Maine's State Systemic Improvement Plan includes a broad improvement strand which focuses on Early Intervention Outreach. Strategies included in this strand include increased outreach to families and other potential referral sources and focusing on priority areas identified in Maine's completion of IDEA Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center's "Child Find Self-Assessment". The results of these efforts have had the intended outcome of increasing the number of identified infants and toddlers and is reflected in Maine's data.

Massachusetts

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

- The increase in American Indian/Alaska Native is due to data entry errors due to an update in the system to alphabetize the race categories.

Michigan

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- Birth through 2 Total by Community Setting: Several service areas made a concerted effort to move children from the Other and Community settings to the Home setting, accounting for a decrease of children from the Community setting.

Montana

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- Total Birth to 1: In 2018, the State found that a few agencies were incorrectly establishing Type I Established Condition for infants who were at risk for toxic exposure. The result of Type I Established Condition clarification was a reduction in the number of infants in the Birth to 1 category being served.
- Total American Indian or Alaska Native: The two agencies with the most significant reductions both serve catchment regions with significant American Indian populations—the Blackfoot and the Salish Kootenai. Further drill down identified long-time employee changes for one agency requiring the agency's newly hired personnel to build relationships and trust with the Tribe. The other agency identified a less than robust Child Find system with the Tribe and are taking corrective action steps to improve.

Nebraska

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- The data variations in Cumulative Counts by Race/Ethnicity are likely due to the continued implementation of a new data collection system that began in SY 2018-2019. This is the second year we are getting data directly from the school districts' Student Information Systems. We feel this more accurately reflects Race & Ethnicity data. The total, overall number of children remained the same but some of the race and ethnicity categories were redistributed likely because of improved accuracy in data collection and reporting.

New Jersey

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- Birth through 2 Total by Community indicates a higher number of children in community settings. NJ has an increase in number of overall children and an increase in families requesting services in childcare, along with improved partnerships with childcare.
- Total Hispanic/Latino: The NJ Part C program is using a new data system that allows for choice of ethnicity which is more specific. In 2019, the updated database from the vendor was provided to the program with these additional ethnicity categories, all of which roll up into Hispanic/Latino under the reporting rules. The also explains Cumulative Counts by Race/Ethnicity for total Hispanic/Latino and the decrease in Two or more races, as the data system allows families to be more specific in their identification of race/ethnicity.

New Hampshire

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- Year to year increases are representative of the increased number of infants and toddlers served in year 3 across the state.

New York

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- American Indian/Alaska native children increased most likely because of small number fluctuation.

- 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 the Part C Program until the effective date of their IEP.

- The numbers reported exclude children over age three who were enrolled in the NY Early Intervention Program on October 1, 2019.

- The cumulative number of children enrolled in the New York State Early Intervention Program excludes children who turned three before the beginning of the period and received their IFSPs after their third birthdays.

North Dakota

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

- Families in North Dakota are asked to self-report their race during the intake process. A program in an Eastern region of North Dakota improved their data collection practices to ensure that families understand each option for self-reporting their race. This region has a large number of

New Americans who live in the area and do not speak English as their first language. The increased education to families about what each category means has increased reporting accuracy in this area. Due to this change, the program reported that more families chose to identify as "Black or African American" instead of "Two or More Races." The point-in-time data for this region reflects this change with a decrease in the number of individuals reporting "Two or More Races" and a correlating increase in the number of individuals reporting "Black or African American" as their race. The cumulative data for this region further illustrates this change with an increase in the number of individuals reporting "Black or African American" as their race.

Ohio

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):
 - Total Hispanic/Latino: The year-to-year differences in the number of children identified as Hispanic/Latino are likely related to an overall increase in the number of children served as well as typical year-to-year variation. During the past two years, Ohio has had increased focus on child find efforts, and we believe that some of this increase may be attributable to those efforts.

Oklahoma

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):
 - The variation in "Other Setting" is due to our effort to provide more services in a "Home Setting."

South Carolina

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):
 - Birth-2/Community and Birth-2/Other Settings: The increase in year-to-year percentage is attributed to increased accuracy of reporting settings by service coordination personnel. Birth-1/Total: South Carolina has observed an increase in the number of referrals and an increase in the number of eligible children ages birth to 1 between FFY 2017 and FFY 2019.

South Dakota

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):
 - The state has seen an overall increase in the Hispanic population.

Tennessee

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):
 - The increased population of Asian children occurred primarily in one Middle Tennessee district.
 - The district reports a significant increase of Arabic and Laotian families.
 - Some Arabic families were coded at Asian. This district has had personnel growth with the addition of new Service Coordinators. Staff and provider training and re-training will be conducted to ensure appropriate classification of race per US Census guidelines.

Virginia

- These reports include children served under Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in Virginia Schools.

Washington

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):
 - Cumulative Child Count by Race/Ethnicity and Gender, Total Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander: These data are accurate as submitted. The Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT) program experienced an increase of children reported on the December 1 count compared to the prior year. There was a decline in the category “Two or more Races”. This decline is representative of the increase in children in the category “Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.” It appears that families are choosing to self-identify with one specific race rather than multiple races.

West Virginia

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):
 - West Virginia saw a large year to year increase in the number of infants and toddlers reported under Two or More Races/Not Hispanic. This data can be explained by West Virginia's continuous increase in the number of infants and toddlers being served every year. West Virginia also made an update to their race/ethnicity data collection procedures in 2018, and the increase can be attributed to a more reliable and accurate collection of race/ethnicity data.