

Children Enrolled in Early Intervention

DEFINITION

Children enrolled in Early Intervention is the percentage of children under age three who had an active Individual Family Service Plan through a Rhode Island Early Intervention provider during 2008.

SIGNIFICANCE

During the first few years of life, children develop the linguistic, cognitive, emotional, social and behavioral capabilities that are the foundation for subsequent development.¹ The *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C* requires states to identify and provide appropriate early intervention services to children under age three who are developmentally delayed or have a diagnosed physical or mental condition that is associated with a developmental delay. States may choose to serve children who are at risk of experiencing a substantial delay if early intervention services are not provided, but few states choose to provide services to these children.²

Rhode Island's eligibility criteria for Early Intervention (EI) include children with a diagnosed medical disorder bearing relatively well-known expectancy for developmental delay (single established condition) and children exhibiting or who have been professionally determined to have a developmental delay in one or more

areas of development (cognitive, physical, communication, social-emotional, and adaptive). Children also may be eligible for Rhode Island Early Intervention through a "multiple established conditions" category, which includes children with a history of biological issues that could negatively impact the developing nervous system and/or early life experiences that indicate a high probability for atypical or delayed development.³

Young children with disabilities and/or developmental delays who receive EI services are better prepared for school and later life.⁴ Poverty is linked to disabilities and developmental delays; children living below the federal poverty level have higher participation rates in EI than higher-income children.⁵

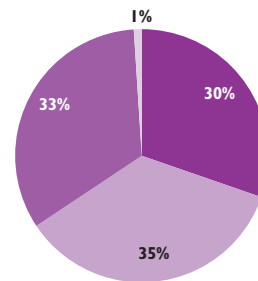
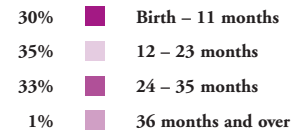
% of Children Receiving Early Intervention Services, 2007	Under Age 3	
	Under Age 1	Under Age 3
RI	2.3%	4.6%
US	1.1%	2.5%
National Rank*	5th	4th
New England Rank**	2nd	2nd

*1st is best; 50th is worst

**1st is best; 6th is worst

Source: IDEA Infant and Toddler Coordinator Association. (2007). *IDEA Part C Percentage of all children (including at risk) under the age of one/under the age of three receiving services*. Retrieved February 11, 2009 from www.ideainfanttoddler.org (Note: Data are point-in-time for December 1, 2007).

Early Intervention Enrollment, By Age, Rhode Island, 2008



n = 3,649

Source: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Center for Child and Family Health, 2008.

- ◆ In 2008 in Rhode Island, 3,649 children received Early Intervention (EI) services, 10% of the 37,775 Rhode Island children under age three. Children in the core cities participated in EI at a slightly higher rate (10%) than children in the remainder of the state (9%).⁷ Sixty-three percent of the EI population was male and 37% was female.⁸
- ◆ In 2008 in Rhode Island, 971 children were discharged from EI upon reaching age three. Of these children, 66% were eligible for preschool special education, 17% were not eligible for preschool special education, and 11% did not have eligibility determined when exiting. An additional 5% moved out of state, were unreachable, or were withdrawn by a parent or guardian.⁹
- ◆ Federal legislation requires states to refer children who have been involved in a substantiated case of child abuse or neglect and children who have been affected by parental substance abuse to Early Intervention for an eligibility assessment.¹⁰ In 2008, out of 646 children under age three in the care of DCYF, 314 (49%) were referred to EI programs and 217 (33%) children were already receiving EI services.¹¹
- ◆ National research indicates that approximately one-third to one-half of maltreated infants and toddlers exhibit developmental delays that would make them eligible for EI.¹²

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Table 28. Infants and Toddlers Enrolled in Early Intervention (EI), by Eligibility Type, Rhode Island, 2008

CITY/TOWN	# OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 3*	SINGLE ESTABLISHED CONDITION	DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY	MULTIPLE ESTABLISHED CONDITIONS	ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION NOT AVAILABLE	# OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN EI	% OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 3 ENROLLED
Barrington	570	7	48	1	0	56	10%
Bristol	655	11	59	3	0	73	11%
Burrillville	509	3	32	2	0	37	7%
Central Falls	990	16	65	3	0	84	8%
Charlestown	289	6	14	2	1	23	8%
Coventry	1,243	39	100	6	0	145	12%
Cranston	2,455	44	175	19	4	242	10%
Cumberland	1,136	18	91	1	1	111	10%
East Greenwich	384	6	34	5	0	45	12%
East Providence	1,552	25	105	8	0	138	9%
Exeter	187	2	13	0	0	15	8%
Foster	113	0	13	0	0	13	12%
Glocester	335	0	14	0	0	14	4%
Hopkinton	282	6	27	3	0	36	13%
Jamestown	132	6	4	0	0	10	8%
Johnston	893	15	50	4	0	69	8%
Lincoln	662	12	44	3	1	60	9%
Little Compton	107	3	7	0	0	10	9%
Middletown	700	12	36	5	0	53	8%
Narragansett	403	7	22	2	0	31	8%
New Shoreham	35	1	3	0	0	4	11%
Newport	941	13	57	5	0	75	8%
North Kingstown	1,034	23	87	9	1	120	12%
North Providence	885	10	30	2	0	42	5%
North Smithfield	337	4	35	1	0	40	12%
Pawtucket	2,957	65	223	21	2	311	11%
Portsmouth	583	11	35	4	0	50	9%
Providence	7,642	153	543	78	5	779	10%
Richmond	321	0	8	0	0	8	2%
Scituate	371	5	25	1	0	31	8%
Smithfield	499	4	22	0	2	28	6%
South Kingstown	868	16	56	5	0	77	9%
Tiverton	461	9	23	1	0	33	7%
Warren	355	5	22	1	0	28	8%
Warwick	2,714	47	201	16	0	264	10%
West Greenwich	192	0	18	0	0	18	9%
West Warwick	1,136	26	98	8	0	132	12%
Westerly	827	11	53	3	0	67	8%
Woonsocket	2,020	34	218	12	0	264	13%
Unknown	NA	3	8	2	0	13	NA
Core Cities	15,686	307	1,204	127	7	1,645	10%
Remainder of State	22,089	368	1,506	107	10	1,991	9%
Rhode Island	37,775	678	2,718	236	17	3,649	10%

*Population under age 3 is based on Census 2000 and may not reflect increases or decreases in population.

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Center for Child and Family Health, Early Intervention enrollment, calendar year 2008.

The denominator is the number of children under age three, according to Census 2000, Summary File 1.

Core cities are Central Falls, Newport, Pawtucket, Providence, West Warwick and Woonsocket.

References

- ¹ Shonkoff, J. P. & Phillips, D. A. (2000). *From neurons to neighborhoods: The science of early childhood development*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press.
- ²⁵ *Why young children enter Early Intervention services*. (2007). Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina, FPG Child Development Institute.
- ^{3,6,8,9} Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Center for Child and Family Health, 2007.
- ⁴ Oser, C. & Cohen, J. (2003). *Improving Part C Early Intervention: Using what we know about infants and toddlers with disabilities to reauthorize Part C of IDEA*. Washington, DC: Zero to Three Policy Center.
- ⁷ U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000, Summary File 1.
- ¹⁰ Shaw, E. & Goode, S. (2005). *The impact of abuse, neglect and foster care placement on infants, toddlers and young children: Selected resources*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina, FPG Child Development Institute, National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center.
- ¹¹ Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, 2008.
- ¹² Shaw, E. & Goode, S. (2008). *Fact sheet: Vulnerable young children*. Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina, FPG Child Development Institute, National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center.