

# Children Enrolled in Early Intervention

## DEFINITION

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

## 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.<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>2</sup>

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 may also 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.<sup>3</sup>

Young children with disabilities and/or developmental delays who receive Early Intervention services are better prepared for school and later life.<sup>4</sup> 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.<sup>5</sup>

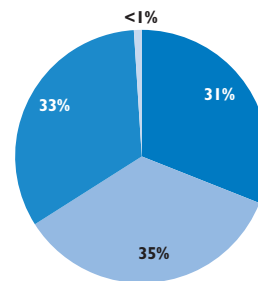
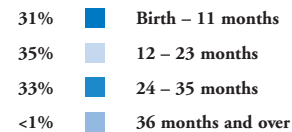
Children Receiving Early Intervention Services, 2008		
	Under Age 1	Under Age 3
RI	2.2%	4.8%
US	1.0%	2.7%
National Rank*	4th	4th
New England Rank**	2nd	2nd

\*1st is best; 50th is worst

\*\*1st is best; 6th is worst

Source: IDEA Infant and Toddler Coordinator Association. (2009). *IDEA Part C: Percentage of all children under the age of one/under the age of three receiving services.* (Single day count 10/1 – 12/1/2008). Retrieved February 19, 2010 from [www.ideainfanttoddler.org](http://www.ideainfanttoddler.org)

Early Intervention Enrollment, by Age, Rhode Island, 2009



n = 3,795

Source: Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Center for Child and Family Health, 2009.

◆ In 2009 in Rhode Island, 3,795 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 (11%) than children in the remainder of the state (9%). Sixty-three percent of the EI population was male and 37% was female.<sup>6</sup>

◆ In 2009 in Rhode Island, 931 children were discharged from EI upon reaching age three. Of these children, 68% were eligible for preschool special education, 14% were not eligible for preschool special education, and 13% did not have eligibility determined when exiting. An additional 5% moved out of state, were unreachable, completed their service plan, or were withdrawn by a parent or guardian.<sup>7</sup>

◆ 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 for Early Intervention services.<sup>8</sup> In 2009, out of 784 children under age three who were victims of an indicated investigation of child abuse or neglect, 514 (66%) were screened by DCYF as eligible for EI and were referred to EI programs.<sup>9</sup>

◆ 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.<sup>10</sup>

# Children Enrolled in Early Intervention

Table 32. Infants and Toddlers Enrolled in Early Intervention (EI), by Eligibility Type, Rhode Island, 2009

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	2	43	1	0	46	8%
Bristol	655	15	51	6	0	72	11%
Burrillville	509	8	29	2	0	39	8%
Central Falls	990	17	73	14	0	104	11%
Charlestown	289	5	22	1	0	28	10%
Coventry	1,243	32	82	9	0	123	10%
Cranston	2,455	51	179	16	1	247	10%
Cumberland	1,136	17	80	1	0	98	9%
East Greenwich	384	8	24	4	0	36	9%
East Providence	1,552	23	127	6	0	156	10%
Exeter	187	3	10	2	0	15	8%
Foster	113	0	18	0	0	18	16%
Glocester	335	1	15	0	0	16	5%
Hopkinton	282	5	32	2	0	39	14%
Jamestown	132	4	5	2	0	11	8%
Johnston	893	16	64	4	0	84	9%
Lincoln	662	15	45	5	0	65	10%
Little Compton	107	2	5	1	0	8	7%
Middletown	700	14	34	8	0	56	8%
Narragansett	403	8	16	2	0	26	6%
New Shoreham	35	2	1	0	0	3	9%
Newport	941	13	75	6	0	94	10%
North Kingstown	1,034	20	69	16	0	105	10%
North Providence	885	25	95	9	0	129	15%
North Smithfield	337	4	34	0	0	38	11%
Pawtucket	2,957	64	217	33	0	314	11%
Portsmouth	583	11	34	3	0	48	8%
Providence	7,642	151	550	83	4	788	10%
Richmond	321	0	9	0	0	9	3%
Scituate	371	6	21	1	0	28	8%
Smithfield	499	2	26	1	0	29	6%
South Kingstown	868	14	51	6	0	71	8%
Tiverton	461	9	24	4	0	37	8%
Warren	355	2	22	2	0	26	7%
Warwick	2,714	55	184	24	0	263	10%
West Greenwich	192	2	19	0	0	21	11%
West Warwick	1,136	36	101	12	0	149	13%
Westerly	827	19	52	7	0	78	9%
Woonsocket	2,020	28	236	7	1	272	13%
Unknown	NA	0	6	0	0	6	NA
Core Cities	15,686	309	1,252	155	5	1,721	11%
Remainder of State	22,089	400	1,522	145	1	2,068	9%
Rhode Island	37,775	709	2,780	300	6	3,795	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 2009.

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

- <sup>1</sup> Shonkoff, J. P. & Phillips, D. A. (2000). *From neurons to neighborhoods: The science of early childhood development*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press.
- <sup>2,5</sup> *Why young children enter Early Intervention services*. (2007). Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina, FPG Child Development Institute.
- <sup>3,6,7</sup> Rhode Island Department of Human Services, Center for Child and Family Health, 2009.
- <sup>4</sup> 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.
- <sup>8</sup> 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.
- <sup>9</sup> Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, 2009.
- <sup>10</sup> 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.