

Children Enrolled in Early Intervention

DEFINITION

Children enrolled in Early Intervention is the percentage of children under age 3 who have an active Individual Family Service Plan through a Rhode Island Early Intervention provider during calendar year 2004.

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 Development in the early years is vigorous but highly vulnerable.²

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part C (IDEA, Part C) requires states to identify and provide appropriate early intervention services to children from birth through age 2 who are developmentally delayed or have a physical or mental condition with a high probability of resulting in developmental delay. States may choose to serve children more broadly at risk of delay. In order for a state to participate in the program it must assure that early intervention will be available to every eligible child and his or her family.³

Rhode Island's eligibility criteria for Early Intervention includes children with a physical or mental condition known to impact development, children with

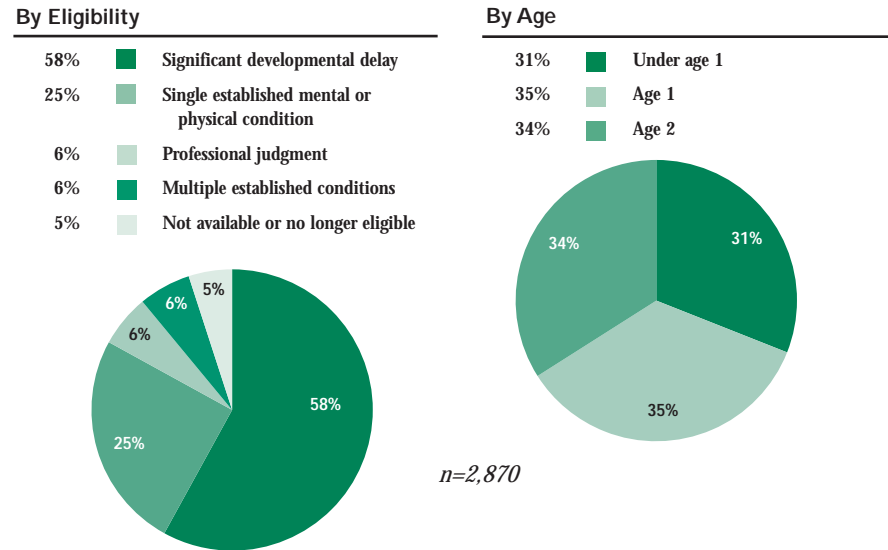
established developmental delays and children at significant risk for developmental delays or with multiple established conditions which collectively increase the probability of atypical development.⁴

Infants and toddlers with diagnosed conditions such as Down syndrome, cerebral palsy, or hearing loss clearly benefit from Early Intervention.

Appropriate services and supports, such as physical therapy, speech and language therapy, special education, home visits and family support increase the chances a child with disabilities or at risk will develop to his or her full potential. Young children with developmental delays who receive Early Intervention services are better prepared for school and later life.⁵

Early Intervention services can have a significant positive impact for young children with medical risk factors such as growth problems and elevated blood lead levels and environmental risk factors such as poverty or family mental health problems.⁶ Rhode Island Early Intervention screens children to identify those with multiple medical and/or environmental risks. Children who have four or more factors that place them at risk of developmental delay are eligible for Early Intervention services.⁷

Rhode Island Early Intervention Enrollment, 2004



- ◆ During 2004 in Rhode Island, 2,870 children received Early Intervention services. This is 8% of the 37,775 Rhode Island children under age 3.^{8,9}
- ◆ In 2003, 812 children were discharged from Rhode Island's Early Intervention program upon reaching age 3. Of these children, 594 (73%) were referred to the local school district to continue necessary special education services. An additional 158 (19%) children completed the program because they had achieved their goals and 49 (6%) were discharged because they refused services, moved out of state or were unreachable. Eleven children (1%) were discharged for unknown reasons.¹⁰
- ◆ There are three categories of risk for adverse developmental outcomes that states use to define eligibility for Early Intervention services: established risk (e.g. Down syndrome), biological/medical risk (e.g. failure-to-thrive), and environmental risk (e.g. poverty). IDEA requires states to provide services to "established risk" children by virtue of their diagnosis, regardless of whether a measurable delay exists. Serving children with biological/medical and/or environmental risks is optional.¹¹

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Table 25.

Infants and Toddlers Enrolled in Early Intervention, Rhode Island, 2004

CITY/TOWN	# OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 3*	# OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN EARLY INTERVENTION	% OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 3 ENROLLED
Barrington	570	43	8%
Bristol	655	48	7%
Burrillville	509	41	8%
Central Falls	990	82	8%
Charlestown	289	32	11%
Coventry	1,243	109	9%
Cranston	2,455	201	8%
Cumberland	1,136	98	9%
East Greenwich	384	25	7%
East Providence	1,552	106	7%
Exeter	187	14	7%
Foster	113	7	6%
Glocester	335	18	5%
Hopkinton	282	26	9%
Jamestown	132	8	6%
Johnston	893	73	8%
Lincoln	662	63	10%
Little Compton	107	6	6%
Middletown	700	41	6%
Narragansett	403	26	6%
New Shoreham	35	2	6%
Newport	941	60	6%
North Kingstown	1,034	102	10%
North Providence	885	65	7%
North Smithfield	337	38	11%
Pawtucket	2,957	259	9%
Portsmouth	583	44	8%
Providence	7,642	552	7%
Richmond	321	12	4%
Scituate	371	39	11%
Smithfield	499	23	5%
South Kingstown	868	62	7%
Tiverton	461	26	6%
Warren	355	30	8%
Warwick	2,714	199	7%
West Greenwich	192	9	5%
West Warwick	1,136	78	7%
Westerly	827	58	7%
Woonsocket	2,020	145	7%
Core Cities	15,686	1,176	7%
Remainder of State	22,089	1,694	8%
Rhode Island	37,775	2,870	8%

*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, children enrolled in Early Intervention in calendar year 2004.

The denominator is the number of children under age 3, according to Census 2000, Summary File 1.

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

References

^{1,2} Shonkoff, J. P. & Phillips, D. A. (2000). *From neurons to neighborhoods: The science of early childhood development*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press.

³ *Early Intervention Program for infants and toddlers with disabilities* (Part C of IDEA) (n.d.). Retrieved February 14, 2004 from www.nectac.org/partc/partc.asp

^{4,7,8,10} Department of Human Services, Center for Child and Family Health, February 2005.

^{5,6} Oser, C. & Cohen, J. (2003). Improving 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.

⁹ U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census 2000, Summary File 1.

¹¹ Shackelford, J. (2004). *State and jurisdictional eligibility definitions for infants and toddlers with disabilities under IDEA (NECTAC Notes No. 16)*. Chapel Hill, NC: National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center.