

Children Enrolled in Early Intervention

DEFINITION

Children enrolled in Early Intervention is the number and 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 basic brain architecture and social-emotional health that serves as a foundation for all future development and learning. Infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities and those who face significant family circumstances need extra help and should receive high-quality Early Intervention services to develop essential language, social-emotional, and motor skills to reduce the need for services when they are older.¹

States are required to provide Early Intervention services to infants and toddlers with developmental delays and disabilities under Part C of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*. States may also choose to serve children who are at risk of falling behind without early supports.²

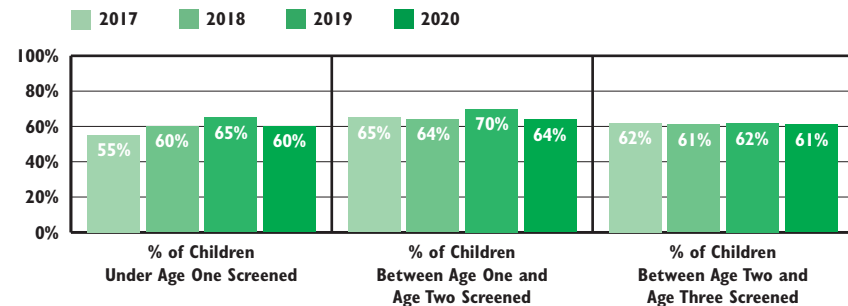
In Rhode Island, children under age three are eligible for Early Intervention if they have a “single established condition” known to lead to developmental delay (e.g., very low

birth weight, Down Syndrome, etc.) or if they have a significant developmental delay in one or more areas of development (cognitive, physical, communication, social-emotional, and adaptive). Current eligibility criteria allow children with “significant circumstances” (e.g., significant trauma, history of neglect/abuse, parental substance abuse, significant parental health/mental health issues, etc.) to qualify through informed clinical opinion under the developmental delay category, if the circumstances impact child or family functioning.³

Experts estimate that as many as 13% of infants and toddlers in the U.S. could benefit from Early Intervention.⁴ Approximately 17% of U.S. children ages three to 17 have developmental disabilities, with higher prevalence among children from low-income families and among boys.⁵

Pediatric health care professionals should use standardized developmental screening tools at the 9-, 18-, and 30-month well-child visits and Autism Spectrum Disorder screening tools at the 24- and 30-month visits to identify children who may be eligible for Early Intervention.⁶ Early childhood developmental screenings are required and covered for all children with RItE Care coverage through the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) mandate.⁷


**Developmental Screenings Completed,
RItE Care Members Under Age 3, 2017-2020**



Source: Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Performance Years 2017-2020.

- ◆ **As of June 30, 2020, there were 2,224 infants and toddlers receiving Early Intervention (EI) services, 7% of the population under age three. Of these, 45% percent were eligible due to a measured significant developmental delay, 34% due to significant circumstances impacting child or family functioning, 19% due to a single established condition, and 1% were eligible due to an unspecified developmental delay. Of the children receiving EI services on June 30, 2020, 43% began receiving services before age one, 41% began at age one, and 17% began at age two.⁸**
- ◆ **In Calendar Year 2020 in Rhode Island, 4,155 children received EI services, down 10% from, 4,601 in 2020. In 2020, 1,062 children were discharged from EI upon reaching age three. Of these, 58% were found eligible and 16% were found not eligible for preschool special education. Seventeen percent were in the process of eligibility determination, 6% had successfully met all developmental goals, and 3% left the program for other reasons.⁹**
- ◆ **In Rhode Island, Early Intervention services are financed through private and public health insurance, with some supplemental funding through an *IDEA* Part C state grant. As of June 30, 2020 in Rhode Island, 1,310 children (59%) received services through public insurance (RItE Care and Medicaid), 870 children (39%) received services through a private health insurance provider, and 44 children (2%) were uninsured with services covered by Part C funding.^{10,11}**

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Table 33. Infants and Toddlers Enrolled in Early Intervention (EI) by Eligibility Type, Rhode Island, 2020

CITY/TOWN	CALENDAR YEAR 2020 ENROLLMENT			JUNE 30, 2020 ENROLLMENT BY ELIGIBILITY				
	# OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 3	# OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN EI	% OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 3 ENROLLED IN EI	SINGLE ESTABLISHED CONDITION	MEASURED DEVELOPMENTAL DELAY	SIGNIFICANT CIRCUMSTANCES IMPACTING CHILD/FAMILY FUNCTION	# OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN EI	% OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 3 ENROLLED IN EI
Barrington	366	66	18%	10	10	15	35	10%
Bristol	507	43	8%	3	10	12	25	5%
Burrillville	460	50	11%	7	14	5	26	6%
Central Falls	1,028	134	13%	10	41	12	63	6%
Charlestown	186	28	15%	3	4	9	16	9%
Coventry	940	101	11%	10	18	18	46	5%
Cranston	2,318	286	12%	26	65	50	141	6%
Cumberland	970	158	16%	13	45	31	89	9%
East Greenwich	299	53	18%	4	5	13	22	7%
East Providence	1,560	136	9%	16	23	29	68	4%
Exeter	166	16	10%	4	1	4	9	5%
Foster	113	11	10%	1	4	1	6	5%
Glocester	247	22	9%	3	7	5	15	6%
Hopkinton	258	29	11%	1	3	8	12	5%
Jamestown	85	7	8%	0	0	2	2	2%
Johnston	816	103	13%	13	20	19	52	6%
Lincoln	587	72	12%	5	22	15	42	7%
Little Compton	68	2	3%	0	0	0	0	0%
Middletown	502	65	13%	6	17	6	29	6%
Narragansett	271	17	6%	2	2	6	10	4%
New Shoreham	21	2	10%	1	0	0	1	5%
Newport	820	72	9%	10	20	12	42	5%
North Kingstown	728	86	12%	11	8	18	37	5%
North Providence	851	112	13%	11	37	14	62	7%
North Smithfield	290	51	18%	3	16	9	28	10%
Pawtucket	2,959	346	12%	38	107	71	216	7%
Portsmouth	429	66	15%	6	16	7	29	7%
Providence	7,609	1,030	14%	132	260	170	562	7%
Richmond	235	19	8%	0	4	4	8	3%
Scituate	193	42	22%	6	12	9	27	14%
Smithfield	402	60	15%	5	11	18	34	8%
South Kingstown	640	66	10%	6	11	17	34	5%
Tiverton	398	40	10%	2	6	9	17	4%
Warren	296	38	13%	3	10	3	16	5%
Warwick	2,322	269	12%	23	70	60	153	7%
West Greenwich	178	23	13%	5	3	6	14	8%
West Warwick	1,044	117	11%	10	24	27	61	6%
Westerly	726	77	11%	10	16	16	42	6%
Woonsocket	1,900	240	13%	12	95	26	133	7%
Four Core Cities	13,496	1,750	13%	192	503	279	974	7%
Remainder of State	20,292	2,405	12%	239	534	477	1,250	6%
Rhode Island	33,788	4,155	12%	431	1,037	756	2,224	7%

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Center for Child and Family Health, Early Intervention enrollment, Calendar Year 2020 and June 30, 2020 enrollment (point-in-time). On June 30, 2020, there were 28 children who were eligible for Early Intervention under the developmental delay category but didn't have specific information about measured delay or significant circumstances. We count them in the "measured delay category".

The denominator is the number of children under age three, according to Census 2010, Summary File 1.

Core cities are Central Falls, Pawtucket, Providence, and Woonsocket.

References

- ^{1,2,4} Ullrich, R., Cole, P., Gebhard, B., & Schmit, S. (2017). *Early Intervention: A critical support for infants, toddlers, and families*. Washington, DC: Zero to Three and CLASP.
- ³ *Rhode Island Early Intervention certification standards policies and procedures: IV. Eligibility determination*. (2018). Cranston, RI: Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services.
- ⁵ Zablotsky, B., et al., (2019). Prevalence and trends of developmental disabilities among children in the United States: 2009–2017. *Pediatrics*, 144(4): e20190811.
- ⁶ Lipkin, P. H., Macias, M. M., & AAP Council on children with disabilities, section on developmental and behavioral pediatrics. (2020). Promoting optimal development: identifying infants and young children with developmental disorders through developmental surveillance and screening. *Pediatrics*, 145(1): e20193449.
- ⁷ *Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic, and Treatment*. (n.d.). Retrieved March 20, 2021 from www.medicaid.gov
- ^{8,9,11} Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, 2019 - 2020.
- ¹⁰ *Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services Early Intervention Program SFY2019*. Cranston, RI: Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services.