

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 serve 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 and 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

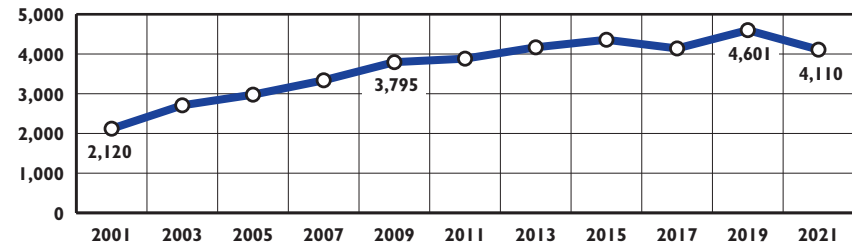
In Rhode Island, children under age three are eligible for Early Intervention if they have a “single established condition” known to lead to developmental delay (e.g., very low birth weight, Down Syndrome, etc.) or

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

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. Nationally, less than a quarter of children with developmental delays and disabilities receive Early Intervention services before age three.^{4,5}

Early childhood developmental screenings are required and covered at pediatric health care visits for all children with RIte Care coverage through the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) mandate. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends routine developmental screening using standardized tools to identify children who would benefit from Early Intervention services.^{6,7} In 2021, 65.2% of children under age three with RIte Care had a developmental screening completed, compared to 59.5% in 2020.⁸

Infants & Toddlers Receiving Early Intervention Services, Calendar Years 2001-2021, Rhode Island



Source: 2001-2003, Rhode Island Department of Health; 2004-2011, Rhode Island Department of Human Services; 2012-2021, Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services.

◆ As of June 30, 2021, there were 2,102 infants and toddlers receiving Early Intervention (EI) services, 6% of the population under age three. The number of children receiving Early Intervention services in Calendar Year 2021 (4,110) was down 11% from 4,601 in 2019 (pre-pandemic).⁹

◆ As of June 30, 2021, of children who were eligible for Early Intervention, 64% were eligible due to informed clinical opinion/significant circumstances impacting child or family function, 18% due to a single established condition, 17% due to a measured significant delay, and less than 1% were eligible due to an unspecified developmental delay. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Early Intervention providers conducted many eligibility evaluations virtually which did not allow for use of a standardized developmental assessment tool. They were instructed to use “informed clinical opinion/significant circumstances impacting child/family functioning.”¹⁰

◆ In 2021, 1,027 children were discharged from EI upon reaching age three. Of these, 65% were found eligible and 16% were found not eligible for preschool special education. Thirteen percent were in the process of eligibility determination, 3% had successfully met all developmental goals, and 3% left the program for other reasons.¹¹

◆ As of June 30, 2021, in Rhode Island, 1,197 children (57%) received services through public insurance (RIte Care and Medicaid), 870 children (41%) received services through a private health insurance provider, and 35 children (2%) were uninsured with services covered by Part C funding.¹²

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Table 33. Infants and Toddlers Enrolled in Early Intervention (EI) by Eligibility Type, Rhode Island, 2021

| CITY/TOWN | CALENDAR YEAR 2021 ENROLLMENT | | | JUNE 30, 2021 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 | 58 | 16% | 11 | 4 | 14 | 29 | 8% |
| Bristol | 507 | 46 | 9% | 4 | 4 | 16 | 24 | 5% |
| Burrillville | 460 | 49 | 11% | 5 | 12 | 5 | 22 | 5% |
| Central Falls | 1,028 | 118 | 11% | 10 | 7 | 46 | 63 | 6% |
| Charlestown | 186 | 24 | 13% | 0 | 2 | 9 | 11 | 6% |
| Coventry | 940 | 102 | 11% | 7 | 5 | 37 | 49 | 5% |
| Cranston | 2,318 | 266 | 11% | 23 | 21 | 103 | 147 | 6% |
| Cumberland | 970 | 140 | 14% | 8 | 13 | 51 | 72 | 7% |
| East Greenwich | 299 | 54 | 18% | 6 | 2 | 19 | 27 | 9% |
| East Providence | 1,560 | 161 | 10% | 11 | 8 | 61 | 80 | 5% |
| Exeter | 166 | 13 | 8% | 1 | 0 | 5 | 6 | 4% |
| Foster | 113 | 15 | 13% | 1 | 4 | 4 | 9 | 8% |
| Glocester | 247 | 22 | 9% | 2 | 4 | 2 | 8 | 3% |
| Hopkinton | 258 | 34 | 13% | 4 | 4 | 13 | 21 | 8% |
| Jamestown | 85 | 9 | 11% | 0 | 1 | 5 | 6 | 7% |
| Johnston | 816 | 121 | 15% | 14 | 3 | 49 | 66 | 8% |
| Lincoln | 587 | 71 | 12% | 5 | 7 | 25 | 37 | 6% |
| Little Compton | 68 | 5 | 7% | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Middletown | 502 | 74 | 15% | 5 | 10 | 15 | 30 | 6% |
| Narragansett | 271 | 16 | 6% | 2 | 0 | 4 | 6 | 2% |
| New Shoreham | 21 | 2 | 10% | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0% |
| Newport | 820 | 87 | 11% | 7 | 14 | 16 | 37 | 5% |
| North Kingstown | 728 | 78 | 11% | 7 | 12 | 22 | 41 | 6% |
| North Providence | 851 | 110 | 13% | 12 | 6 | 40 | 58 | 7% |
| North Smithfield | 290 | 38 | 13% | 4 | 6 | 9 | 19 | 7% |
| Pawtucket | 2,959 | 350 | 12% | 39 | 16 | 129 | 184 | 6% |
| Portsmouth | 429 | 56 | 13% | 8 | 7 | 18 | 33 | 8% |
| Providence | 7,609 | 994 | 13% | 111 | 64 | 343 | 518 | 7% |
| Richmond | 235 | 21 | 9% | 0 | 1 | 12 | 13 | 6% |
| Scituate | 193 | 40 | 21% | 3 | 4 | 9 | 16 | 8% |
| Smithfield | 402 | 54 | 13% | 2 | 2 | 25 | 29 | 7% |
| South Kingstown | 640 | 75 | 12% | 10 | 5 | 26 | 41 | 6% |
| Tiverton | 398 | 47 | 12% | 1 | 11 | 11 | 23 | 6% |
| Warren | 296 | 26 | 9% | 6 | 3 | 5 | 14 | 5% |
| Warwick | 2,322 | 271 | 12% | 21 | 22 | 94 | 137 | 6% |
| West Greenwich | 178 | 26 | 15% | 3 | 0 | 11 | 14 | 8% |
| West Warwick | 1,044 | 134 | 13% | 11 | 15 | 44 | 70 | 7% |
| Westerly | 726 | 71 | 10% | 10 | 1 | 24 | 35 | 5% |
| Woonsocket | 1,900 | 232 | 12% | 14 | 63 | 30 | 107 | 6% |
| Four Core Cities | 13,496 | 1,694 | 13% | 174 | 150 | 548 | 872 | 6% |
| Remainder of State | 20,292 | 2,416 | 12% | 214 | 213 | 803 | 1,230 | 6% |
| Rhode Island | 33,788 | 4,110 | 12% | 388 | 363 | 1,351 | 2,102 | 6% |

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 2021 and June 30, 2021 enrollment (point-in-time). On June 30, 2021, there were 3 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 "significant circumstances" 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

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