



Part C Data Notes

2007-08 Reporting Year and Fall 2008

This document provides information, or data notes, on the ways in which states collected and reported data differently from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) data formats and instructions. In addition, the data notes provide explanations of substantial changes or other changes that data users may find notable or of interest in the data from the previous year.

The data notes are organized as follows: Child Count, Settings, Exiting, and Dispute Resolution.

2008 Child Count

Alaska

Alaska does not serve children ages 3 or older in the Part C system or children "at risk."

Alaska had a decrease in the number and percentage of children reported in the American Indian or Alaska Native, Birth through 2 category. Alaska's largest urban early intervention service agency in Anchorage sustained the majority of this decrease. Juvenile population estimates for the Anchorage region in 2006-07 also demonstrated a decrease for this same race/ethnicity category and age. 2008 population data are not available at this time. This agency has experienced an overall decrease in enrollment in the past year. Child Find training has been conducted with this agency, and population demographics are being monitored.

Alaska had a decrease in the number and percentage of male children enrolled in Part C and a decrease in the number and percentage of male children enrolled for this reporting period. Population birth data by gender are not available at this time.

Alabama

Currently, Alabama does not serve children "at risk" or children ages 3 or older.

America Samoa

American Samoa does not serve children ages 3 or older or at-risk children birth through 2.

Arkansas

The decrease in the number of Asian/Pacific Islanders served was attributed to a decrease in the number of Asian/Pacific Islanders referred to the program and living in the service populated areas.

The increase in the number of Black children served was attributed to more Child Find activities and efforts to identify and recommend the program.

The decrease in the number of White children served was attributed to a decrease in the total number of children referred and found eligible this year. Also, White families found other programs available in their respective areas.

Arizona

Arizona used the unknown race/ethnicity formula to assign children to four race/ethnicity categories: American Indian or Alaska Native; Asian or Pacific Islander; Black (not Hispanic), and White (not Hispanic).

California

California Part C does not serve children ages 3 or older.

The increase in total population served slowed this year to 6 percent.. California's annual increase has consistently been in the double-digits. Reasons for the slowing change have not yet been determined, but may be comparable to the total statewide population growth, as the children served in California out of the total birth-to-3 populations reflected a significant growth compared to the national population served this year. Since 2006 however, total population served has increased by 19 percent.

Race/ethnicity was estimated for 6,101 children (14.89 percent of the total) in accordance with instructions provided, although this method is known to overestimate those then categorized as Hispanic versus other race/ethnicity groups. The estimated number is less than in 2007, which was 17.13 percent. Race/ethnicity was estimated for 1,138 children ages birth to 1 (18.65 percent), 2,002 children ages 1 to 2 (32.81%), and 2,961 children ages 2 to 3 (48.53%). These same percentages apply to estimated race/ethnicity for the at-risk population served.

Race/ethnicity percentages have remained fairly constant since 2006, with minor changes only in the Hispanic and White populations served. Over the past 3 years, the Hispanic population served increased from 49 to 51 to 52 percent, respectively. During the same period, the White population decreased from 35 to 33 percent. The population percentages of age groups served demonstrated changes for the birth-to-1 and the 2-to-3 age groups since 2006. Birth to 1 has decreased over the past 3 years from 19 to 18 to 15 percent, respectively, while the 2-to-3 age group has increased from 48 to 50 to 51 percent. California believes that this reflects positive preventative measures established throughout the state, as Child Find efforts are strong and well-coordinated in the local communities and demonstrated by annual increases in population served.

Connecticut

Connecticut served 10 percent more children in 2008 than in 2007. This is consistent with a reversal of decisions made in 2003 to restrict eligibility.

Connecticut estimated the race/ethnicity for 99 children who had an unknown race/ethnicity or multiple race/ethnicities.

Connecticut began collecting data using the new race/ethnicity categories on January 1, 2007, to prepare for December 1, 2010. As a result, more children may be identified as Hispanic and Asian. This will be reviewed once the 2010 data are submitted.

According to the 2008 census estimates, the number of children of Hispanic origin under age 3 increased by 1,613, while the overall number of children under age 3 increased by only 1,022, and the number of children of Asian descent decreased. In addition, the number of boys under age 3 increased significantly more than the number of girls.

Delaware

A single race/ethnicity category was not available for 108 children. They were coded as "Unknown/Other" in the state's database. For federal reporting, their race/ethnicity was prorated.

Florida

A total of 2,232 children were of unknown or other race/ethnicity and were proportionately distributed into OSEP's race/ethnicity categories, as in previous years.

Georgia

The state imputed race/ethnicity for 327 children of multiple or other race/ethnicity according to OSEP guidelines.

Guam

Guam Part C does not serve children ages 3 or older.

The increase in the total number of children ages birth through 2 was consistent and a direct result of the increase in the total number of children found eligible for Part C services and served. Guam attributed the increase in the number of children served in the Asian/Pacific Islander category to the overall increase in the number of infants and toddlers and families served statewide. The percentage of Asian/Pacific Islander children served continues to remain above the 99th percentile range and is a normal trend as reported every year since 2005.

The increases in the number of male and female infants and toddlers, ages birth through 2, reflected an overall increase of 12.08 percent in the number served; however, the small numbers involved also affected the increase for males ages birth through 2 served. Over the years, Child Count in Guam has always been greater for males than for females. Trends show that the percentage of male children served continues to be between the 57th and 60th percentile ranges as reported every year since 2005. This appears to be part of a normal trend for number of males served compared to females.

Idaho

The state attributed all significant changes in race/ethnicity categories from the previous year's report to differences in subpopulation counts resulting from the implementation of the new race/ethnicity categories.

Illinois

Illinois had more current cumulative total caseload for a 12-month period than that reported, but the dates used reflect the same end point as the other reports for Child Count.

The total caseload grew by a modest 4.3 percent and continues to be a close match to the state's under 3 population. The Asian population continued to be underrepresented. The Black and Hispanic caseloads were very close to their proportion of the state populations. For 2008, the White population was marginally above its portion of the state population.

The American Indian proportion of the state population was extremely small and the count continued to be confused by cross-designations as Hispanic. The decline in the number of American Indians is

believed to reflect a continued correction in the way a significant number of children were coded in a heavily Hispanic section of Chicago for a period of time several years ago. There was a tremendous jump in the number of children coded as American Indian, but almost every one of them was also coded as Hispanic. The program questioned if this was correct, and the numbers of children coded as American Indian from that area has declined ever since. The current statewide number is back to the level the program counted prior to the jump in Chicago.

The Black portion of the caseload has continued to fall, although the total number has remained about the same. Research of birth records shows that this reflects an actual decline in total Black births, most notably in Black teen births, not a decrease in the success of Child Find for Black children.

The caseload was slightly more male than in the previous year, moving from 62.7 to 63.1 percent. This is too small a change to represent a trend.

The age groups become more predominately male as follows: birth to age 1 (55.2 percent); 1 to 2(58.4 percent); 2 to 3 (67.1 percent). Between October 31, 2007, and October 31, 2008, the number of children under age 1 declined by 4 percent, while the number of children over age 2 increased by 7.5 percent. This trend runs counter to a variety of program efforts to reach children at younger ages. No actions or issues have been identified that help explain this trend.

Kansas

The state lead agency analyzed the increase of Black (not Hispanic) children served in Part C programs in Kansas and determined that no reporting changes or errors occurred. Also, the state suggests that the percentage increase is a product of Kansas' small Black population and that the Black population is not disproportionately represented.

Kentucky

Data for 2008 included 1,064 children whose race/ethnicity was not known. The state estimated race/ethnicity for these children into the five OSEP categories.

Kentucky's 2008 Child Count represented a significant increase over 2007. Kentucky attributed this increase to a number of factors, including: 1) the development of administrative structures at the Points of Entry (POEs), inclusive of dedicated program managers responsible for Child Find activities; 2) the implementation of a system of performance contracting with the POEs that provided incentive payments for meeting or exceeding state participation rate targets; 3) the development and implementation of a Public Awareness and Child Find campaign, which included a statewide-run Public Service Announcement; 4) the enhancement of Child Find outreach efforts to birthing hospitals and pediatric practices in border states; 5) the increase of outreach efforts to foster care agencies; and 6) in accordance with American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines, the active screening at regular intervals by Kentucky pediatricians for autism.

Maine

Maine does not serve children ages 3 and older or "at-risk" children.

Massachusetts

The decrease in the number of children ages birth to 1 and 1 to 2 was attributed to additional guidance and clarification by the lead agency in January 2008 regarding the interpretation of "congenital torticollis" and

the requirement for a confirmed diagnosis to be documented in the child's record. This resulted in fewer younger children being deemed eligible under this medical condition. The increase in the number of 2- to 3-year-olds is the effect of recently implemented state and lead agency screening initiatives (Early Childhood and Behavioral Health Screenings, Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act, Act Early, and A Helping Hand).

Race/ethnicity was estimated for 825 children.

Maryland

The increase in the number of children of Hispanic origin receiving early intervention services from 2007 to 2008 involved increases in 10 local jurisdictions. The majority of the increase occurred in one county. The reasons attributed to the increase are more effective public awareness activities at the local and state levels targeted at the Hispanic community and an increase in the number of Hispanic families in the state as confirmed by resident population data.

Michigan

Michigan does not serve children ages 3 or older and does not serve "at-risk" children.

Michigan had 62 multiethnic students distributed across the other race/ethnicity categories.

Minnesota

The state attributed the increase in the number of children served to a revision in the state's eligibility criteria for infants and toddlers. The new criteria, designed to identify a broader segment of the general population, went into effect in October 2007. The December 1, 2008, count represents the first full year of implementation of this policy change. In conjunction with the change in criteria was a public awareness effort to reach out to families who speak languages other than English. These efforts resulted in greater increases across race/ethnicity groups most likely to be non-English speaking.

Mississippi

Mississippi does not serve children ages 3 or older or "at-risk" infants and toddlers.

Missouri

Missouri's child count increased by more than 300 children from December 2007 to December 2008. This increase was seen primarily in the number of children ages 1 to 2, the number of Black children, the number of Hispanic children, and the number of female children. The increases were related to a large increase in the number of referrals to the program and to Child Find efforts/initiatives across the state.

Montana

Montana attributed the increase in the total number of children served to the local Part C agencies conducting more Child Find activities. The agencies conducted more Child Find activities after being shown their data compared to the state, which projected how many infants and toddlers each of the agencies should be finding based on their child count data/ census data of the areas they serve.

Montana attributed the increase in number of children who are American Indian or Alaska Native, the increase in number of children who are White, and the increase in male and female children to the overall

increase in the number of children who were found and served in Part C. The reason for this overall increase is explained above. Montana's two largest race/ethnicity groups are American Indian (seven reservations) and White.

OSEP notified states that they were allowed to select a month and date within the range of October 1 through December 1 to conduct their 618 Child Count. Montana discussed with its stakeholder groups (e.g., ICC council, Part C providers) the month and date that would provide the best representation of the number served for the state. Montana Part C providers have collected data on December 1 since the count was first initiated and continued using that date until discussions with stakeholders and research could occur regarding the timeframe for data collection. This was Montana's first year to collect data on November 13, and the state will continue to use this date.

Nebraska

Nebraska changed its snapshot date from December 1 to October 1 to align with the all student fall membership counts.

Nebraska does not serve children ages 3 or older. Three-year-old children transition to an IEP on or before August 31 following their third birthday.

New Hampshire

Forty-four children were reported as multi-racial and cannot be accounted for in the race/ethnicity portion of data collection.

New Mexico

In January 2008, the Family Infant Toddler Program (New Mexico's *IDEA* Part C administrating agency) began implementation of a new online data system, FIT-KIDS (the Family Infant Toddler Key Information Data System). Data were migrated from the state's former Access database system prior to the implementation of FIT-KIDS. The new data system allows contracted provider agencies to enter child and family demographic information, individualized family service plan (IFSP) information, early childhood outcome information, and delivered service data in real time, which allows for more accurate data collection and reporting. The chance for duplicate data entry is reduced in FIT-KIDS, as the system checks for child records at intake. Due to the switch to the new data system, there is a considerable change from previous years in the numbers reported in the OSEP federal table reports. That is why the numbers reported in this table showed an inconsistency with previous years.

In addition, all the large percentage increases in number served were attributed to the state serving more children in each category than in the previous year.

New York

There was a decrease from 5,233 children with unknown race/ethnicity in the last reporting period to 4,298 in this reporting period. Much of this decrease is a result of New York City's efforts to get more complete race/ethnicity data. The 4,298 children with unknown race/ethnicity were distributed by apportioning the unknown children within a county in direct proportion to the distribution of children in the county with known race/ethnicity or, for New York City, apportioning the unknown race/ethnicity using the results of a match of New York City early-intervention-eligible children with the race/ethnicity reported by their birth mother from birth certificate records.

The 21 children with unknown gender were distributed by apportioning these children in direct proportion to the distribution of children with known gender.

The increase of 13.1 percent in the count of children ages birth to 1 is the result of improved Child Find efforts at the local level.

New York does not serve children ages 3 or older. However, under certain circumstances, children ages 3 or older are allowed to remain in the Part C program until they are enrolled in the NY Early Intervention Program. The numbers reported exclude 345 children over age 3 who were enrolled in the NY Early Intervention Program on October 1, 2008.

New York does not serve at-risk children.

North Carolina

For December 1, 2008, North Carolina made the transition to new race/ethnicity categories; therefore, comparison to the December 1, 2007, categories is not possible.

The increase in the number of male and female children ages birth through 2 served was attributed to the state's emphasis on targeted Child Find since fiscal year 2007-08, which has resulted in an overall increase in the number of children served by the Part C program. The decrease in the number of at-risk children served in North Carolina was explained by the change in the state's eligibility definition for Part C, which was revised in July 2006 and approved by OSEP. North Carolina previously had a broad eligibility definition, which included the provision of services to children who were at-risk and to children with atypical development. Under the new definition, these two eligibility categories are no longer present in the state's eligibility definition.

Oklahoma

There was a decrease in the number of children ages birth through 2 in the American Indian or Alaska Native race/ethnicity category. According to the recent Kids Count, the population of American Indian children under 18 years old decreased from 10 percent to 9 percent. This decrease was observed throughout the age ranges, including the birth-through-2 age range. The decrease in the number of Hispanic/Latino children, ages birth through 2, is due to tighter regulations regarding immigrant populations. Many service agencies and programs have also reported decreases in the number of Hispanic populations served. Overall, Oklahoma has seen the same drop in this population.

Ohio

Seven hundred ninety-two children did not have race/ethnicity specified in their records stored in Ohio's early intervention data system. These 792 children were proportionally distributed using the guidance provided.

Oregon

The number of Asian or Pacific Islander children, birth through 2, increased by 12 (14.63 percent) from 2007. This increase is due primarily to improvements in the Child Find efforts across the counties in Oregon. One county in particular, which had the largest increase in the number of children served, accounted for half of the increase in Asian or Pacific Islander children.

Rhode Island

For 2008, the state reported in accordance with Department of Education's 2007 Guidance for Race or Ethnicity. The Rhode Island Early Intervention Care Coordination System (RIEICCS) allows providers to check multiple races in compliance with the OMB standards. The following reporting categories were used based on family report: Hispanic/Latino of any race and for individuals who are not Hispanic/Latino, the five federal categories were used. When two or more races were selected for those not Hispanic/Latino, 32 children (1.8%) without identified race were proportionally distributed. The RIEICCS system data were validated through a raw data download to an Access database. Enrollment continued to increase. The changes and improvements above, such as using the multi-race category and increased enrollment, are all factors that caused a change from the previous year's count. The data may change due to future edits, updates, and corrections.

South Dakota

South Dakota had an increase of 10.77 percent in the number of females ages birth through 2 who were served in the Part C program. The number of females increased from 418 in 2007 to 463 in 2008.

An analysis of the birth rate data shows that the birth rate for males dipped, as did the number of males served in the Part C program. In 2006, the number of males born was 6,312, and the number born in 2007 was 6,259, or a 1 percent decrease in birth rate. (The 2008 birth rate data were incomplete at this time.) Males served in the Part C program in 2006 accounted for 63 percent of the program's population and in 2007 accounted for 59 percent. This decrease correlates with a decrease in the birth rate for males during the same period.

The opposite is true for females. In 2006, the number of females born was 5,925, and in 2007 the number was 5,961, or a 1 percent increase in the birth rate. This could partially explain why South Dakota served 10.77 percent more females and 6.86 percent fewer males in the Part C program. It is too early to determine whether this is a trend that will continue over time.

Tennessee

For the 2008 Child Count, Tennessee had a significant increase in the number of Hispanic children served compared with 2007. Data were drilled down to the Texas Early Intervention System-Point of Entry level. Results revealed four reasons that the lead agency believed affected the significant increase across four of the nine districts: 1) hiring of Spanish-speaking service coordinators, 2) recruiting efforts to increase the number of interpreters, 3) increasing the Child Find activities in Hispanic communities, and 4) hiring of Spanish-speaking staff in one large children's hospital in the state.

Utah

The state's data included 21 infants and toddlers under IFSP on December 1, 2008, with race/ethnicity reported as other. These data were included in the December 1, 2008, child count total but were not distributed across the race/ethnicity categories.

Vermont

The large decrease in the number of children who are Black or African American was the result of using the new race/ethnicity categories and guidelines. For the December 1, 2008, report, children of mixed ethnicity were counted in the two or more races category. In 2007, if a child was identified as both Black and White, the child was reported as Black. The majority of the children in the new category two or more

races are Black or African American and White, resulting in a decrease in the count of Black or African American children for 2008.

Virginia

Virginia's Part C System does not serve children ages 3 and older or children "at risk." This data submission includes 1,121 infants and toddlers receiving services through the public schools.

Changes in race/ethnicity (Asian or Pacific Islander and Hispanic) reflect the changing population demographic of the Commonwealth.

Washington

The Washington State Early Intervention Program does not provide services for children ages 3 and older or for "at-risk" infants and toddlers.

The 10 percent decrease from 2007 to 2008 in the number of children ages birth to 1 was attributed to recent Department of Health Statistical findings of the decrease in the number of births from 2006 to 2007. The 11 percent increase in the number of children ages 1 to 2 was due to increased Child Find activities. This also reflected overall increases in the number of children served in Washington.

The percentage increase in the number of Asian or Pacific Islander infants and toddlers served (17%), the number of Black (not Hispanic) served (18%), and the number of Hispanic served (11%) could have been due to increased Child Find activities.

Wisconsin

The race/ethnicity categories were collected using the state's new data system, Program Participation System (PPS), which was designed to collect race/ethnicity using the new guidelines. This data note confirms that Wisconsin Department of Health Services used the new guidance as described in the October 2007 publication of the "Final Guidance on Maintaining, Collecting and Reporting Racial and Ethnic Data to the US Department of Education" in the *Federal Register* (Vol. 72, No 202). Wisconsin fully implemented the new guidance and applied it consistently to all data reported within this period.

The number and percentage change in race/ethnicity from Wisconsin's prior year data occurred because the state previously reported race/ethnicity data using the five categories, as defined and applied in years prior to the 2007 guidance. The addition of the two or more races category resulted in the identification of 142 children with two or more races. These children were not previously identified within the five reporting categories applied in years prior to 2007. This change in the number of children reported as being of two or more races suggests that there is greater diversity within the population of Wisconsin's children. These data may require additional review as the state monitors the number of children identified as having two or more races over the next reporting period.

2008 Settings

Alaska

Alaska does not serve children older than age 3 under Part C.

Alaska demonstrated an increase in the number and percentage of reported community-based settings for IFSP services. This is the result of training to clarify the definition of natural environment, particularly

community-based. Many child care centers and Head Start facilities were documented as other settings in 2007. Alaska believes this increase in community-based settings demonstrates improvement in data entry at the local EIS level.

Alabama

Currently, Alabama does not serve children "at risk" or children ages 3 or older.

The slight decrease in COMMUNITY-BASED SETTING and increase in other setting was due to a change in business rules used to calculate data. This change was effective January 31, 2008, and will be in effect for all future calculations.

Arkansas

There was a decrease in the number of children served in the home setting due to the state's early childhood program offering more opportunities for child care programs to families, as well as facilities having more available slots in community programs.

California

California Part C does not serve children ages 3 to 5. These children are served by Part B. The increase in total population served slowed this year to only 6 percent. California's annual increase has consistently demonstrated a double-digit increase. Reasons for this change have not yet been determined but may be comparable to the total statewide population growth, as the children served in California out of the total birth to 3 population reflected a significant growth compared to the national population served this year. Since 2006 however, total population served has increased by 19 percent. Ethnicity was estimated for 6,101 children (14.89 percent of the total) in accordance with instructions provided, although this method is known to overestimate those categorized as Hispanic versus other ethnic groups. The estimated percentage is less than 2007, which was 17.13 percent. Overall settings data indicate that since last year, services provided in the home setting increased by 6 percent, in the community-based setting by 31 percent and in other settings by 3 percent. The community-based served population is small in comparison to the total population served, and subsequently, a small increase in the number served could represent a large percentage change. In this case, the increase was only 378 children. These data reflect the state's increased emphasis on the provision of services in the natural environment. The number of children served in the birth to 1 age group decreased this year for the first time, and California believed it was because of California's increasing focus on preventative measures. This also holds true for the "at-risk" group served. The percentage of 1 to 2 and 2 to 3 age groups served increased in all settings, as was the case last year. For the 2 to 3 age group, the increase in settings was greater for community-based.

Connecticut

The children in other setting include placements in hospital, service provider's office, therapeutic playgroup, and child protective services office (DCF). All IFSPs for children receiving any service in a setting other than home or community have justifications on file. Connecticut estimated the race/ethnicity for 99 children who had an unknown race/ethnicity or multiple race/ethnicities.

Connecticut served 10 percent more children in 2008, and this is consistent with the overall increase in children with IFSPs due to a reversal of decisions made in 2003 to restrict eligibility. As a result, more families are receiving supports in their homes.

Delaware

Delaware collapsed the following categories into the community-based setting category: Head Start, Nursery School, School/Community Program, and Family Day Care. The following categories defaulted into the Other category: Program Designed for Children with Developmental Delay or Disabilities, Hospital (Inpatient), Residential Facility, Service Provider location, and Prescribed Pediatric Extended Care facility.

Florida

There were 2,084 children with no primary setting included in the other settings category. Last year, there were 1,803 children with no primary setting included.

Georgia

The state imputed 327 children of multiple or other race/ethnicity according to OSEP guidelines.

Guam

Guam Part C does not provide services for children 3 years and older. Guam provides early intervention services for birth through 2 years.

The total number of infants and toddlers served increased as a result of Guam's Part C Child Find efforts to locate and serve more eligible children and their families. Continued emphasis on increasing child count resulted in targeted increased activities and initiatives that focused on the medical community and other primary referral sources as reported in Guam's Annual Performance Report (APR). The increase in the total number of children in Part C settings is consistent and a direct result of the increase in the total number of children served and found eligible for Part C services.

The program emphasizes the importance of services being provided in the child's natural environment. As referrals increased in 2008, the number of services provided in the home setting increased. The percentage of children served in the home as compared to a community-based setting continues to remain above the 95th percentile range and is a normal trend as reported every year since 2005.

Idaho

The significant decrease in the number of children receiving services in an other service setting is the direct result of program intervention in correcting its noncompliance of serving children out of the natural environment. The number of children identified as receiving services in an other setting last year consisted predominantly of those served in service provider locations. Through a variety of measures over the course of the past year, this situation was vigorously addressed, and the numbers identified in other settings reported this year were dramatically reduced. The numerically small population of children reported this year in other settings is significantly reduced in percentage, whereas the correspondingly increased percentage of children in the much larger populated home and community-based setting appears much smaller.

Illinois

Significant progress was made during the report year in increasing the proportion of children served predominately in home or community settings. This was true across all race/ethnicities. The largest year-to-year changes were for children ages 2 to 3, 11.0 percent served in the home, and for Hispanics, 10.5

percent served in the home. The proportion of Asians served in natural settings increased notably, but this represented a small number of cases.

Illinois has undertaken a long-term concerted effort to emphasize the importance of delivering services in the home or community. During the report year, significant additional progress was made. This was particularly true in Rockford, Peoria, and several areas of Chicago that previously had problems. The Peoria area in particular continued to have problems.

Indiana

The increase in the total number of children served for the 2008 reporting period was closely correlated to the noted increase reported in the community-based settings category. Due to the slight increase in children served in 2008, Indiana reported an increase in the number of children served in three of the four settings categories.

Kentucky

Kentucky asks primary service coordinators to indicate where the majority of services delivered to a child occurred at every 6-month plan review. However, for children in the program less than 6 months, the data were not available. Settings data were estimated for 2,263 children. Kentucky's 2008 Child Count represents a significant increase over 2007. Kentucky attributes this increase to a number of factors, including 1) the development of administrative structures at the POEs, inclusive of dedicated program managers responsible for Child Find activities; 2) the implementation of a system of performance contracting with the POEs, which provided incentive payments for meeting or exceeding state participation rate targets; 3) the development and implementation of a Public Awareness and Child Find campaign, which included a statewide-run Public Service Announcement; 4) the enhancement of Child Find outreach efforts to birthing hospitals and pediatric practices in border states; 5) the increase of outreach efforts to foster care agencies; and 6) in accordance with AAP guidelines, the active screening at regular intervals by Kentucky pediatricians for autism.

Louisiana

Louisiana does not serve children ages 3 or older.

Maine

Maine does not have children older than age 3 with IFSPs

There was a paradigm shift regarding service delivery for children ages birth to 2 to the primary service provider (PSP) model.

In August of 2007, the state adopted the Maine Unified Special education Regulations (MUSER) Birth - 20, replacing Chapter 180, the regulations governing children birth through 5..

Massachusetts

The state estimated race/ethnicity for 825 children. The other setting included center-individual and EI-segregated child group services.

Maryland

The increase 18.67 percent (126) in the number of children of Hispanic origin receiving early intervention services in FFY 2008 involved increases in 10 local jurisdictions. The reasons attributed to the increase in the number of children of Hispanic origin served are: (1) More effective public awareness activities at the local and state levels targeted at the Hispanic community; and (2) an increased population of Hispanic families in Maryland as confirmed by resident population data. There has been an increase of 4,738 (20 percent) in birth through age 2 children with Hispanic origin from 2005 to 2007.

Michigan

Michigan had 62 multi-ethnic children who were distributed across the five ethnic groups. Michigan does not serve children ages 3 or older under Part C.

The changes in setting counts may be attributed to an increase in technical assistance on both appropriate service settings and data collection procedures.

The changes in setting counts were all in the right direction—an increase in home and community-based and a decrease in other. The changes in setting counts may be attributed to an increase in technical assistance on both appropriate service settings and data collection procedures.

Minnesota

Minnesota's Part C child count increased by 655 children from December 1, 2007, to December 1, 2008. This increase was attributed to a revision to the state's eligibility criteria for infants and toddlers. New criteria, designed to identify a broader segment of the general population, went into effect in October 2007. The December 1, 2008, count represents the first full year of implementation of this policy change. The percentage increase in the number of children who received early intervention services in their homes correlated with the overall increase in the number of children served. While the number of children served and the number of children served in their homes increased, the proportion of children served in their homes as a percentage of all children served only increased by 1.2%.

Missouri

Missouri's child count increased by more than 300 children from December 2007. Since over 90% of the children had a primary setting of home, this category also showed a large number and percentage increase.

Montana

OSEP notified states that they were allowed to select a month and date within the range of October 1 through December 1 to conduct their 618 Child Count. Montana discussed with its stakeholder groups (e.g., ICC council, Part C providers) the month and date that would provide the best representation of the number served for the state. Montana Part C providers have collected data on December 1 since the count was first initiated and continued using that date until discussions with stakeholders and research could occur regarding the timeframe for data collection. This was Montana's first year to collect data on November 13, and the state will continue to use this date.

Montana attributed the increase in the total number of children served to the local Part C agencies conducting more Child Find activities. The agencies conducted more Child Find activities after being

shown their data compared to the state, which projected how many infants and toddlers each of the agencies should be finding based on their child count data/ census data of the areas they serve.

In the data for infants and toddlers receiving services in home settings, Montana attributed the increased number to the state providing most of its services in the home and an increase in the overall number of children being served.

Nebraska

Nebraska did not have any children older than age 3 on an IFSP. The state's 3-year-olds transition to an IEP on or before August 31st following their third birthday.

Nevada

Other settings included programs designed for children with developmental delays/disabilities, service provider location, residential facility and social service agency.

New Hampshire

The state reported 44 children as multi-racial and could not account for them in the race/ethnicity portion of this report. These children were served in the home and in other settings.

New Mexico

In January 2008, the Family Infant Toddler Program (New Mexico's IDEA Part C administrating agency) began implementation of a new online data system, FIT-KIDS (the Family Infant Toddler Key Information Data System). Data were migrated from the state's former Access database system prior to the implementation of FIT-KIDS. The new data system allows the contracted provider agencies to enter child and family demographic information, IFSP information, Early Childhood Outcome information, and delivered service data in real time, which allows for more accurate data collection and reporting. The chance for duplicate data entry is reduced in FIT-KIDS, as the system checks for child records at intake. Due to the switch to the new data system, there was a considerable change from previous years in the numbers reported in the OSEP federal table reports. That is why the numbers reported show an inconsistency with prior years.

New York

New York does not serve children ages 3 or older. However, under certain circumstances, children ages 3 or older are allowed to remain in the Part C program until the effective date of their Early Intervention Program. The numbers reported excluded 345 children over age 3 who were enrolled in the NY Early Intervention Program on October 1, 2008.

There was a decrease from 5,233 children with unknown race/ethnicity in the last reporting period to 4,298 in this reporting period. Much of this decrease in unknown race/ethnicity was a result of New York City's efforts in getting more complete race/ethnicity data.

The 4,298 children with unknown race/ethnicity were distributed by apportioning the unknown children within a county in direct proportion to the distribution of children in the county with known race/ethnicity or, for New York City, apportioning the unknown race/ethnicity using the results of a match of New York City early intervention-eligible with the race/ethnicity reported by their birth mother from birth certificate records. The increase of 13.1 percent in the count of children ages 0 to 1 was the result of improved Child

Find efforts at the local level. The decrease of 11.7 percent in the count of children who receive early intervention services primarily in an other setting was due to more concerted efforts to provide services to children in the least restrictive environment that is appropriate for the child.

North Carolina

Community-based setting includes child care facility and Head Start. Other community-based setting other includes center based early intervention, Children's Developmental Services Agency, inpatient hospital, outpatient service facility, and residential facility

The number of children enrolled in the North Carolina Part C program increased in the past year, which was due to the emphasis on targeted Child Find activities. This overall increase was mirrored in the increase in the home and community-based settings categories. Note that the increase in these two categories (13% and 12%, respectively) is similar to the overall increase (13%).

Oregon

The decrease in the number of children in the other setting category was attributed to two factors: 1) Programs have intensified efforts to serve children ages birth to 3 in the home settings, and 2) there has been a decrease in the availability of other settings due to the depressed economy.

Puerto Rico

The total number of children served in community-based settings increased from December 1, 2007, to December 1, 2008. This increase may be due to an overall increase in the number of children served, the reduction in the home category for the year 2008, as well as a decrease in the other setting category. Local programs reported that working families placed their children in day care and other community centers that became their natural environment to receive early intervention services.

Rhode Island

This year Rhode Island is reporting its data in accordance with the Department of Education's 2007 Guidance for Race or Ethnicity. The Rhode Island Early Intervention Care Coordination System (RIEICCS) allows providers to check multiple races in compliance with the OMB standards. For this report, the following reporting categories were used based on family report: Hispanic/Latino of any race; for individuals who are non-Hispanic/Latino, the five federal categories were used. When two or more races were selected for non-Hispanic/Latino, 32 children (1.8 percent) without identified race were proportionally distributed. RIEICCS system data were validated through a raw data download to an Access database. Enrollment continued to increase. The changes and improvements above, such as using the multi-race category and increased enrollment, are all factors that caused a change from the previous year's count. This data may change due to future edits, updates, and corrections.

South Carolina

Data were collected using the new/ethnicity guidelines. South Carolina had an increase in the number of children served from 3,848 to 4,398, which is 550 more or 14.29%. This which caused the total setting number to increase by that same percent

South Carolina reported an increase of 555, or 17.89 percent , in the number of children served in the home setting because of the increase in the total number of children served. In addition, the state worked very hard to increase the number of natural environment providers that it contracts with.

Tennessee

Tennessee had a significant decrease in the primary settings of community and other. One noteworthy improvement resulting from the TEIS reform and the establishment of the Central Reimbursement Office (CRO) was that the Lead Agency offered an incentive rate to Part C vendors through the Authorization to Vendor process in October 2007. Each early intervention service included a standard "in clinic" rate as well as a higher "natural environment" or "enhanced" rate (including travel). On October 1, 2008, a second incentive rate increase was implemented for vendors who provide services in the home or community setting. The Lead Agency believes that this incentive rate positively affected this increase in services delivered in the natural environment.

Utah

Data were collected and compiled using BTOTS (Baby Toddler Online Tracking System), Utah's statewide data system. Each contracting early intervention provider verified its BTOTS data were complete and accurate. BTOTS calculates primary setting using data entered from the IFSP, including service type, frequency, duration, and location. BTOTS data included 912 children for whom the primary setting in which they received early intervention services was other. The other primary settings included programs specifically for children with developmental delays, integrated programs for children with developmental delays, a community hospital, the local health department office, and main and satellite offices of the early intervention centers. Of these 912 children with a primary setting of other, BTOTS data included 21 infants and toddlers under IFSP on December 1, 2008, of bi- or multi-race/ethnicity reported as other. Per discussion with Carol Bruce, Data Collection and Analysis (DAC) Task Leader at Westat, these data were included in the December 1, 2008, settings data total but were not distributed across race/ethnicity categories. A significant increase in the percentage of infants and toddlers under IFSP from December 1, 2007, to December 1, 2008, who were served in a community setting was observed statewide. Increases and decreases in the number of children served in the community setting were seen in 4 and 3 of 15 early intervention programs, respectively, while no changes occurred in the remaining 8 programs. None of the changes (increases or decreases) were attributed to any single factor.

Virginia

Virginia's Part C System does not serve children older than age 3 or at risk. This data submission included 1,121 infants and toddlers receiving services (FAPE) through the public schools.

Virginia reviewed the data and confirmed the accuracy of the submission. Changes in race/ethnicity (Asian/Pacific Islander and Hispanic) reflected the changing population demographic of the Commonwealth. The increase in the settings report reflected a shortage of available providers due to changes in third-party reimbursement rates. Currently, children are in the process of returning to services in their natural environment.

Additionally, Virginia is working on an initiative with the Department of Medical Assistance Services to increase reimbursement rates and return more children to their natural environment

Washington

Washington State Early Intervention Program does not provide services for children over the age of 3.

The 10 percent decrease in the number of children ages birth to 1 was attributed to recent Department of Health statistical findings of a decrease in the number of births from 2006-2007.

The 11 percent increase in the number of children ages 1 to 2 could have been due to increased Child Find activities. This also reflected overall increases in the number of children served in Washington.

The 17 percent increase in the number of infants and toddlers and their families served in the home could have been due to a statewide focus to increase services in natural environments.

The 28 percent increase in the number of infants and toddlers and their families served in community-based settings could have been due a statewide focus to increase services in natural environments.

ITEIP continues to decrease services in other settings, as reflected again this year in a 27 percent decrease. The number of infants and toddlers and their families served in the other settings could have been due to increased focus on natural environments and activities.

The 10% decrease in the number of American Indian/Alaska Native infants and toddlers and their families served may be attributed to recent Department of Health Statistics findings of a decrease in the number of births for 2006 to 2007. The records show in 2005 to 2006 birth rate increased 130, and in 2006 to 2007 the increase was 117, an overall decrease of 1 percent.

The 17% increase in the number of Asian/Pacific Islander infants and toddlers and their families served could have been due to increased Child Find activities.

The 18% increase in the number of Black/African American infants and toddler and their families served could have been due to increased Child Find activities.

The 11% increase in the number of Hispanic American infants and toddlers and their families served could have been due to increased Child Find activities.

West Virginia

The number of children receiving services in a community-based setting decreased from 114 in 2007 to 64 in 2008. After reviewing IFSPs to ensure appropriate location for service delivery, it was determined that this decrease could only be attributed to the fact that each child receives an individualized IFSP, which in turn reflects individualized service delivery locations. This number is expected to change to reflect the specific needs of the children at a given time.

The number of children receiving services in other settings decreased from 13 in 2007 to 0 in 2008. Last year, 12 of those 13 children were reported in the other settings category because they were receiving services at a women's correctional facility. For the 2008 Settings table, the state reported those children receiving services in this facility in the home setting due to the unique nature of the facility. This particular women's correctional facility allows incarcerated women to keep their young infants with them, thus making this facility a temporary home for these children. In addition, one of the children reported in the other settings category in 2007 exited the system and was therefore not counted in the 2008 data.

Wisconsin

The race/ethnicity categories were collected in the state's new data system using the new race/ethnicity guidelines. The new Program Participation System (PPS) was designed to collect the information using these guidelines.

This Data Note confirms that Wisconsin DHS utilized the new guidance as described in the October 2007 publication of the "Final Guidance on Maintaining, Collecting and Reporting Racial and Ethnic Data to

the US Department of Education in the *Federal Register* (Vol. 72, No 202). This Data Note corresponds with the Wisconsin submittal of the Report of Children Receiving Early Intervention Services in Accordance With Part C for the Child Count of October 1, 2008, Table 1 and Table 2.

The state continued to provide clarification of settings categories through ongoing statewide technical assistance and training on settings, initiated in 2007. This focused technical assistance and training to improve the use of correct settings categories continued into 2008. As a result, changes in number and percentage can be attributed to an enhanced understanding and use of settings categories overall.

The number and percentage of children served in a community-based setting decreased since 2007. This decrease represented an overall small number of children served in community-based settings. Fewer than 300 children of nearly 6,000 children served in Wisconsin's birth to 3 programs are served in community-based settings. However, the state will monitor these data in future years to examine the possibility of a trend in data in this settings category.

Wisconsin has embraced a relationship-based training and technical support approach that emphasizes the importance of early intervention service provision within a natural environment. Ongoing training and technical assistance promotes knowledge and skill development of Early Intervention Supportive Services within natural environments whenever possible. Highlighting the natural environment's potential to improve results in overall effectiveness of services that are integrated in the natural environment, along with improved child outcomes, more programs are currently serving children within the context of family and in the home setting.

An analysis of the decreased number of children in community-based settings led to an increase in service provision in home settings, providing the best opportunity for long-term support for parents and children beyond birth to 3 programming. The settings data demonstrate an increase from the 2007 number of 4,984 children served in home environments, to the 2008 number served of 5,980 for the age group birth to 2. This emerging pattern provides some optimism that Wisconsin's birth to 3 programs are embracing service provision in the natural environment.

2007-08 Exiting

Alabama

Currently, Alabama does not use the category Part B eligible, continuing in Part C.

In response to exit with referrals, due to targeted technical assistance provided to early intervention programs, service coordinators were advised to refer families to community resources when they were not eligible for the local education agency.

In response to exit to other program with referral, based on individualized technical assistance by monitors at the state level, it was determined that there were families who chose not to make a community program referral.

The increase in the number of Asian/Pacific Islander children served was determined to be based on an increase in the number of foreign auto makers locating to Alabama. In reviewing Alabama's trend data, this category has continued to grow.

Arizona

Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) had a total of 320 children with unknown ethnicity data for exiting data. Using the unknown ethnicity formula, the state proportionally assigned these children to the nine exiting categories. AzEIP does not use the Part B eligible, continuing in Part C category. Arizona reviewed its data handling and verification procedures for the exit report in early 2008, and two issues were identified. The first issue was that a significant number of records, 2,133, lacked valid exit dates and reasons. The second issue was that edits in the data processing program were assigning an exit code of Part B eligible to the records of children who had turned age 3 and lacked valid exit data. During the course of the year, valid exit data were gathered for 469 of these records, leaving 1,661 records without exit data. The records that lacked exit data were counted on this report as Part B eligibility not determined.

Arkansas

The increase of 13 children who completed their IFSP prior to the maximum age was due to programs setting workable goals and providing services in an effective manner.

The decrease in the number of children being eligible for Part B services was due to a decrease in children exiting the Early Intervention Program during this year. Also, parents were choosing not to move their children from regular day care settings to the educational coop due to the choice of services available and payment by Medicaid.

The decrease in the number of children exiting with referrals to other programs was attributed to parents wanting to keep the same Medicaid providers and to transportation reasons for their service areas.

The increase in the number of children exiting with no referral was due to children testing out of the program and parents enrolling them in the Head Start program, as well as transportation reasons for their service areas.

The increase in the number of children exiting and Part B eligibility not being determined was due to families choosing other programs before eligibility was determined and thereafter deciding against services and to parents not cooperating and meeting with the team on scheduled appointments.

The decrease in the number of Black children exiting the program was due to a decrease in the total number of children exiting the program this year and based on the percentage of Black children referred in certain service areas.

California

Comments submitted last year are applicable to this year's comments. Continuing significant growth in California's program affected exit reporting categories and was responsible for most of the differences between last year's and this year's report.

Two exit categories that continued to demonstrate a trend increase in percentage with the increase in population served over the last 3 years are completion of IFSP prior to reaching maximum age for Part C and withdrawal by parent or guardian . Reporting for this last category was slightly less than reported for fiscal year 2004. In fiscal year 2005, the change was significantly less than 2004 and was due to definition changes. California believes that this figure will stabilize and the state will monitor it for reporting on next year's table. Two other categories that reflect positive changes were a decrease in Part B eligibility not determined and a decrease in deceased.

As for changes in gender reporting, the total number of males exiting the program this year, as compared to last year, increased by while females exiting increased. The overall percentages of the two genders exiting this year were not significantly different from the previous year.

Connecticut

Connecticut estimated the race/ethnicity for 105 children who had an unknown race/ethnicity or multiple race/ethnicities.

The decrease in the number of children who exited with Part B eligibility not determined was due to the state's efforts with the CT Department of Education to identify in which towns this was found most.

The fewer children that exited Part C due to completion of their IFSP prior to 3 may have been due to the fact that the state did not adjust its eligibility determination process to restore eligibility for children with more mild delays (children with speech as the only concern and very low birth weight infants) until July 1, 2007. Five months would not have been noticeable during the December 2, 2006, to December 2, 2007, reporting period.

Florida

Exit data are generated using Excel pivot tables and proportioning race codes unmatched in OSEP/DAC (unknown) according to the proportion of race codes matched in OSEP/DAC (known). During the exit period, 1,173 children were of unknown race and 483 of other race. These 1,656 children were proportioned into the known race data categories.

Illinois

The number of exits increased just 3.0 percent from the previous year. That was a smaller increase than has been seen in a number of years. Exits have increased more rapidly since then. The ratio of male to female exits remained exactly the same as in the previous report, with 65 percent being male and 35 percent female. The largest percentage increase in exit types was not Part B eligible, no referral (31.2 percent) and the largest decrease was in deceased children. Both of those exit reasons accounted for just 0.4 percent of all exits, meaning changes in those areas were statistically insignificant.

Indiana

Indiana revised its reporting period for child exit data to align the timeframe of the exit data with the corresponding Annual Performance Report reporting period. Indiana changed the reporting period of exit data from December - November to July - June. In 2006, Indiana changed its eligibility criteria, resulting in more restricted eligibility categories and a reclassification of Indiana from a state with broad eligibility criteria to a state with 'moderate' eligibility requirements. As a result, Indiana is experiencing a shift in the program population composition and age demographics of the children served in the state, leading to an overall change in the trending patterns from previous years' exit data. As a result of the state's program eligibility changes, Indiana has experienced an overall drop in child count. In addition, because eligibility categories were changed and subsequently became more restrictive, Indiana has seen a change in the degree of delay in the children being served, resulting in fewer children exiting prior to age 3.

Illinois

The increase in the number of exits with no referral was not statistically significant. It represented 0.29 percent of all case closings in the 2006 report and 0.37 percent in the 2007 report. The shift in the female

terminations with no referral also was insignificant, when viewed in the context of the overall number of caseload terminations. These changes did not reflect any moves in terms of policy, practice, or caseload composition.

Kentucky

Kentucky submitted a revised 2006-07 Exiting data on September 2, 2008. The revision to the 2006-07 data corrected the male and female numbers, which were reversed in the original submission. Kentucky mentions this to ensure that proper comparisons are drawn from 2006-07 to 2007-08. Kentucky would also like to comment on the increase in the number of children exiting Part C. 2006-07 data show 3,150 children exiting, while 2007-08 data show 3,521 children exiting. This increase is in line with the overall increase in the number of children participating in Kentucky's Part C program in 2007-08.

Kansas

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Part C, and the Kansas State Department of Education, Part B, did not choose to implement the continuation of early intervention (Part C) services until kindergarten entry as described in 20 U.S.C. 1435(c).

Massachusetts

The decrease in the percentage of children in the not eligible for Part B due to exit with no referrals category was due to continued focused monitoring efforts; data verification measures taken; individual communications with programs; and trainings provided to ensure documentation completion of transition data, including "grading" Early Intervention programs on the documentation of recommended outgoing referrals to the parents by program staff at the time of discharge. The increase in the percentage of children in the Part B eligibility not determined category was due to incomplete data received on a small percentage of clients (0.6%). If no recommended referrals are made to the family, the program is required to provide this information. None of the children under this category had any recommended referrals, and there was no indication of "no referrals" being made. The increase in the percentage of children who moved out of state reflects outmigration trends that Massachusetts has been experiencing in the past several years due to job loss. The increase in the percentage of withdrawals by the parent (or guardian) was partially explained by families not wanted to pay a fee that Massachusetts requires annually. Many families whose children have only a few months of eligibility will choose to seek community resources or reimbursement through private insurance for the last few months rather than pay the fee. Also, many of these children have only one delay, and many families are referred to community resources and activities. The increase in the percentage of attempts to contact unsuccessful was attributed to the increase in the number of more vulnerable families being served (homeless families and *Child Abuse and Prevention Treatment Act* referrals). Race/ethnicity was estimated for 990 children.

Michigan

Michigan changed the Exit Reasons code set to more correctly represent the OSEP exiting categories. In addition, the state was in the middle of moving all district users from a desktop software product to a web-based application.

Missouri

The decreases in completion of IFSP prior to reaching maximum age for Part C and Hispanic exits was due to small changes across the state. Exact reasons for the decreases were unknown, but could not be attributed to any changes in the program itself.

Montana

Montana attributed the increased number of children exiting Part C prior to maximum age to an increase in the number of children who no longer qualified for Part C services due to Montana's narrow definition for eligibility after the completion of the IFSP. The criteria used in determining a child's eligibility as a result of developmental delay includes: A minimum of 50% delay in any one of the developmental areas or a 25 percent delay in two or more of the developmental areas. Informed clinical opinion must be used in determining eligibility for services under Part C if there are no standardized measures, or the standardized measures and procedures available are not appropriate for a given age or developmental level. OSEP has approved Montana's definition.

Montana attributed the decrease in the number of children found eligible for Part B services and exiting Part C to the state's definition of eligibility for school services. This year, Montana had more children exiting Part C prior to reaching maximum age for services.

Montana attributed the decrease in the number of children for whom Part B eligibility was not determined to parents choosing not to have their child evaluated for Part B services to determine if he/she was eligible.

Montana attributed the increase in the number of children being withdrawn by their parents to parents' choosing not to have their child receive services.

Montana attributed the increased number of children in the unsuccessful attempts to contact families category to families changing home addresses, phone numbers no longer in service, certified letters being returned to providers without forwarding addresses, and *Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)* regulations prohibiting obtaining information about families from other services.

Montana attributed the decrease in the number of males found eligible for Part B services and exiting Part C to the state's definition of eligibility for school services. The overall number of children who were found Part B eligible and exiting Part C services decreased as a whole for the state.

Montana attributed the decrease in the number of males for whom Part B eligibility was not determined to a decrease in the number of parents choosing to having their child evaluated for Part B services to see if they are eligible.

Montana attributed the increase in the number of females in the category withdrawal by parents to more parents choosing not to receive services for their child.

Montana attributed the increased number of females in the category unsuccessful attempts to contact families to families changing home addresses, phone numbers no longer in service, certified letters being returned to providers without forwarding addresses, and HIPAA regulations prohibiting obtaining information about families from other services.

Nevada

Nevada attributed the increase in the total number of children exiting Part C to the increase in total number of children served in Nevada. From State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2004 to SFY 2008 the overall budget increased by 55.6 percent, and the total number of children served on December 1 increased by 51.8 percent. With increased funding, Nevada was able to increase the staff that provides direct services to children in early intervention, which contributed to more children being served. With more children served it stands to reason that the number of children exiting Part C also increased. From July 1, 2003,

through July 1, 2007, the Nevada State Demographer-certified Population Estimates show a statewide growth in population of 18.4 percent, which also contributed to the overall increase in children served and exiting. These data account for the increases in race/ethnicity and gender due to the overall increase in the child count.

New Hampshire

The state reported 17 children reported as multi-racial. These 17 children represented the following exiting categories: completion of the IFSP, not eligible for Part B and exited to other programs, not eligible for Part B and exited with no referrals, eligible for Part B, moved out of state, and withdrawn by parent.

New Jersey

New Jersey does not continue services in Part C for children Part B eligible.

New Mexico

The New Mexico Family Infant Toddler Program (*IDEA* Part C Program) began using a new online data and billing system during this reporting period. The new data system is known as FIT-KIDS, or the Family Infant Toddler Key Information Data System. Although it will provide more accurate and timely data collection and reporting capabilities, the switch from the state's old Access database system to the new online system will likely result in some incongruities in data reporting from last year to now.

New York

The decline of children in the category moved out of state was consistent with general demographic trends in New York State. Due to the inability to follow up with these families, further analysis of the reasons for this shift was not possible.

The general instructions for Table 3 require that the 5,732 children turning age 3 prior to the reporting period (July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008) be excluded from the report.

A total of 5,919 children with unknown race/ethnicity were distributed by apportioning the unknown children within each county in direct proportion to the distribution of children in that county with known race/ethnicity or, for New York City, apportioning the unknown race/ethnicity using the results of a match of New York City Early Intervention-eligible children with the race/ethnicity reported by their birth mother from birth certificate records. 16 children with unknown gender were distributed by apportioning them in direct proportion to the distribution of children with known gender.

In Exit reports prior to PY 2003-04, children moving out of county were assigned to the moved out of state exit category. For the current reporting period, 815 children fell into this category. In an effort to determine their true program status or exit category, these children were matched against both enrolled children and children closed during the program year. Matching criteria included the child's name, sex, date of birth, Social Security number, Medicaid ID and mother's maiden name. Based on the results of this match, 362 children were found to be enrolled in the Early Intervention Program in another county and were removed from the Exit report; 417 children under 3 years of age could not be located (unable to be matched) and were categorized as attempts to contact unsuccessful; and 36 children over 3 years of age unable to be matched were placed in "Part B, eligibility not determined". There were 8 children remaining who exited the Early Intervention Program during the year with an exit reason that did not explicitly

correspond to a federal exit category and whose status could not be resolved by any of the previous steps. These children were assigned to an exit category based on their age at time of program exit.

North Carolina

Exit Reason Crosswalk for North Carolina:

1. Completion of IFSP prior to reaching maximum age for Part C is the sum of the state categories "Does not meet eligibility criteria for ITP," which means that an enrolled child no longer meets eligibility due to developmental improvement, and "Completed IFSP prior to third birthday."
2. Part B eligible is the sum of the state categories "Aged out; entered preschool program (Part B)" and "Aged out; eligible for preschool, family refused."
3. Part B eligible continuing in Part C does not apply to North Carolina.
4. Not eligible for Part B, exit to other programs is the sum of "Aged out; not eligible for preschool program (Part B)" and "Aged out; NOT Eligible for Part B-referred to other programs."
5. Not eligible for Part B, exit with no referrals is the state category "Aged out; not eligible for Part B - exit with no referrals."
6. Part B eligibility not determined is the sum of state categories "Aged out; unknown eligibility for preschool program" and the number of children who reached their third birthday who either did not have a closure report or were in the state exit category "Other."
7. Deceased is the state category "Child expired."
8. Moved out of state is the state category "Moved, address unknown or out-of-state."
9. Withdrawal by parent (or guardian) is the sum of the state categories "Parent ended participation, no longer wants services," "Parent ended participation, no longer needs services," "Parent ended participation, dissatisfied with services," and "Parent discontinued."
10. Attempts to contact unsuccessful is the sum of the state categories "Lost to follow-up" and "Unable to make contact" and the number of children who did not reach their third birthday who were in the state exit category "Other."

Oregon

The increase in the total number of children reported in Oregon's 2007-08 Exit collection, compared to 2006-07, was due primarily to improvements in the reporting of children that were found Part B eligible and successfully transitioned from Part C to Part B on their third birthday (see notes on Part B eligible, exiting Part C for additional details).

The decrease in the number of children in the completion of IFSP prior to reaching maximum age category was explained by minor decreases in this category across the majority of programs in the state. One program also reported that there may have been a problem with data reporting caused by a programming error that has been corrected for the 2008-09 reporting year.

There was an increase in the number of children categorized as Part B eligible, exiting Part C. From a programmatic point of view, Oregon's Part B eligible children do not exit an Early Intervention (EI) program and enter an Early Childhood Special Education program; they remain in the same program because Oregon's EI/ECSE program is seamless. The same agency serves all children from ages 0 through 4. In the 2006-07 Exit collection, Oregon instituted an EI transition code in order to determine which 3-year-old children served during the year by EI/ECSE programs had also been served during the year as 2-year-olds and had been successfully found Part B eligible by their third birthday. Since the code was new in the 2006-07 collection, many EI/ECSE programs did not use it correctly, which resulted in an under count of this exit reason. In the 2007-08 Exit collection, agencies were familiar with the new code and used it more accurately, resulting in a higher count.

The increase in the number of children exiting with no referrals can be explained by minor increases in this category across the majority of programs in the state. One program also reported that there may have been a problem with data reporting caused by a programming error that has been corrected for the 2008-09 reporting year. Another large program indicated that it had a number of children whose parents indicated that they did not want referrals to other programs at the time of exit.

The decrease in the number of children who moved out of state (18, -12.16%) could be attributed to the housing slump and other economic factors that have influenced families not to move at this time.

The increase in the number of children withdrawn by parent/guardian (24, 13.95%) could be attributed to a single large program in the state. The program reported that parents have made the decision to withdraw their children for a number of personal reasons, including attending private preschools, significant progress on IFSP goals, and the desire not to have their child labeled as special education.

The increase in the total number of males reported in Oregon's 2007-08 Exit collection, compared to 2006-07, was due primarily to improvements in the reporting of children that were found Part B eligible and successfully transitioned from Part C to Part B on their third birthday (see notes on "Part B eligible, exiting Part C" for additional details).

The decrease in the number of children in the category completion of IFSP prior to maximum age could be explained by minor decreases in this category across the majority of programs in the state. One program also reported that there may have been a problem with data reporting caused by a programming error that has been corrected for the 2008-09 reporting year.

There was an increase in the number of children categorized as Part B eligible, exiting Part C. From a programmatic point of view, Oregon's Part B eligible children do not exit an EI program and enter an ECSE program, they remain in the same program because Oregon's EI/ECSE program is seamless. The same agency serves all children from ages 0 through 4. In the 2006-07 Exit collection, Oregon instituted an EI Transition code in order to determine which 3-year-old children served during the year by EI/ECSE programs, had also been served during the year as 2-year-olds and had been successfully found Part B eligible by their third birthday. Since the code was new in the 2006-07 collection, many EI/ECSE programs did not use it correctly, which resulted in an under count of this exit reason. In the 2007-08 Exit collection, agencies were familiar with the new code and used it more accurately, resulting in a higher count.

The increase in the number of children in the exit with no referrals category could be explained by minor increases in this category across the majority of programs in the state. One program also reported that there may have been a problem with data reporting caused by a programming error that has been corrected for the 2008-09 reporting year. Another large program indicated that it had a number of children whose parents indicated that they did not want referrals to other programs at the time of exit.

The decrease in the number of children in the category moved out of state could be attributed to the housing slump and other economic factors that have influenced families not to move at this time.

The increase in the number of children in the category withdrawal by parent/guardian could be attributed to a single large program in the state. The program reported that parents have made the decision to withdraw their children for a number of personal reasons, including attending private preschools, significant progress on IFSP goals, and the desire not to have their child labeled as special education.

Based on the resubmitted data, no data note is necessary to explain the small increase in the number of children in the attempts to contact unsuccessful category.

The increase in the total number of females reported in Oregon's 2007-08 Exit collection, compared to 2006-07, was due primarily to improvements in the reporting of children who were found Part B eligible and successfully transitioned from Part C to Part B on their third birthday (see notes on "Part B eligible, exiting Part C" for additional details).

There was an increase of 178 children in the Part B eligible, exiting Part C category. From a programmatic point of view, Oregon's Part B eligible children do not exit an EI program and enter an ECSE program, they remain in the same program because Oregon's EI/ECSE program is seamless. The same agency serves all children from ages 0 through 4. In the 2006-07 Exit collection, Oregon instituted an EI Transition code in order to determine which 3-year-old children served during the year by EI/ECSE programs, had also been served during the year as 2-year-olds and had been successfully found Part B eligible by their third birthday. Since the code was new in the 2006-07 collection, many EI/ECSE programs did not use it correctly resulting in an under count of this exit Reason. In the 2007-08 Exit collection agencies were familiar with the new code and used it more accurately, resulting in a higher count.

The increase in the number of children in the category exit with no referrals could be explained by minor increases in this category across the majority of programs in the state. One program also reported that there may have been a problem with data reporting caused by a programming error that has been corrected for the 2008-09 reporting year. Another large program indicated that it had a number of children whose parents indicated that they did not want referrals to other programs at the time of exit.

The increase in the number of children in the category withdrawal by parent/guardian could be attributed to a single large program in the state. The program reported that parents have made the decision to withdraw their children for a number of personal reasons, including attending private preschools, significant progress on IFSP goals, and the desire not to have their child labeled as special education.

Puerto Rico

Part B eligible, continuing in Part C. Include all children determined to be eligible for Part B, whose parents chose to remain in Part C until the child is eligible for kindergarten.

The observed increased from 2006 to 2007 in the number of children exiting Part C whose eligibility to Part B was not determined may be explained by: 1) the increase in the total of children served from 2006 to 2007; most of them entered the program at age 2 or later; 2) families do not complete the registration process that is required prior to eligibility determination; 3) in some regions, eligibility determination to Part B takes place on the same day of the meeting for elaboration of the transition plan, which in many instances occurs after the child has exited the program; 4) delay in the Department of Education eligibility determination process despite Department of Health electronic data submission of children potentially eligible to Part B when the child turns 2 years of age.

The increase in the number of unsuccessful attempts to contact families may have been related to the increase in the total number of children receiving services from 2006 to 2007. For 2007, there were 28 more children who exited due to unsuccessful attempts to contact families. When the number of exits for 2006 and 2007 are considered, it is possible to determine that although it seems to be an increase, the proportion of unsuccessful contacts by exits remained almost constant (6.61% vs. 6.65%) year by year. Many families provide only cell phone numbers, claiming that that they do not have a phone at home. Despite the implementation of novel strategies, service coordinators are constantly being challenged by the frequent changes in cell phone numbers.

The observed increase in the number of children exiting Part C eligible for Part B for 2006 as compared to 2007 may be explained by the increase by the total number of children served from 2006 (4,262) to 2007 (4,762). For 2007, Puerto Rico achieved 100% compliance for subindicator 8b (percentage of children exiting Part C where notification to Department of Education occurred), showing an increase from 99.0%. As part of the notification process, the child's information is referred to the state Department of Education, which should facilitate the eligibility determination for Part B. More pre-school coordinators were allocated at the local districts; these personnel play an important role in the timely Part B registry and the Part B eligibility determination process.

Rhode Island

The Rhode Island Early Intervention Care Coordination System (RIEICCS) was implemented in August of 2006. The new web-based system uses only the five federal categories for race. Providers are allowed to select more than one race. The system compiles the actual race, and the numbers are rounded when entered into the spreadsheet. Older data included some of the old categories. RIEICCS placed old categories into the White category. State staff verified the RIEICCS numbers and proportionally distributed the 98 infants/toddlers among the categories in table 3.

Enrollment increased in previous years therefore increasing discharges.

The state will share the list of children who were referred to Part B, but eligibility was not determined by their third birthday, with the Rhode Island Department of Education by each LEA so that they can follow up with the status of these children.

The Part B eligibility not determined data are extracted from the statewide RIEICC system. These data may change due to future edits, updates, and corrections.

South Dakota

South Dakota had an increase in the number of children who completed their IFSP prior to turning 3, an increase in the number of children who exited with referrals to other programs, a decrease in the number of children who exited the program with no referrals, and a decrease in the number of children who were not tested to determine Part B eligibility. These improvements were the result of additional service coordinator training, on-going assessment of the child's progress, and improved communication with parents.

The number of American Indian children exiting the program increased. This was attributed to the increased number of American Indian children who were screened and evaluated as needing early intervention services. Ongoing outreach efforts to American Indian children include collaborative efforts on Indian Reservations. For example, one Birth to Three program conducts screening clinics in a reservation community. The entire family is invited to the event, and the Tribe provides a free meal. During this time, families receive early intervention information and learn the importance of family members being involved with the therapies, so that their child can get caught up with their same age peers as quickly as possible.

Tennessee

The nine Tennessee Early Intervention System (TEIS) district offices drilled down the 618 exiting data to determine the cause of the increase in the number of Hispanic children receiving services. Data revealed that the significant increase in the number of Hispanic children exiting occurred in three districts. One of the Tennessee counties, Bedford County, continued to have the highest population of Hispanics for its

size in the state. Due to this population, the district this county resides in has seen an increase in the numbers of Hispanic children served, thus increasing the number of children exiting the program. Overall, the hiring of Spanish-speaking service coordinators and Spanish-speaking interpreters, has improved the state's ability to communicate with its Hispanic population and increased the ability to understand their needs and fears. Tennessee's general population is seeing fairly significant growth in Hispanics.

The nine TEIS district offices drilled down the 618 exiting data to determine the cause of the increase in male children receiving services. Data revealed a significant increase in the following exiting reasons by the male gender: Part B eligible, eligibility for Part B not determined, parent withdrawal, and attempts to contact unsuccessful. After assessment of data, no specific reason was determined to cause the increase in the number of males exiting the program.

The nine TEIS district offices drilled down the 618 exiting data to determine the cause of the decrease in the number of children in the not eligible for Part B, exit with referrals to other programs category. Data revealed two districts with a significant decrease in children not eligible for Part B, exit with referrals to other programs. The Upper Cumberland district had the greatest decrease, and its information was analyzed. The reason for the decrease was determined to be that transition meetings occurred in a timely manner with more productive results regarding future needs. TEIS has also improved exiting documentation with a clarification regarding use of exiting reasons.

The nine TEIS district offices drilled down the 618 exiting data to determine the cause of the increase in the number of children in the withdrawal by parent category. Data revealed four districts with a significant change for an increase of withdrawal by parent before the age of 3. Assessment of two districts indicated that the families were satisfied with the progress of the child's skills and exited the program due to this progress prior to age 3. These children were functioning near the appropriate age level when exiting.

The nine TEIS district offices drilled down the 618 exiting data to determine the cause of the increase in the number of children in the category attempts to contact unsuccessful. Data revealed three districts with a significant change in attempts to contact unsuccessful. Assessment of these districts indicated that training of service coordinators affected accuracy of exit reason reporting. Assessment also revealed that families have a tendency to move unexpectedly without providing a forwarding address or telephone number.

Texas

The increase in the number of children exiting to other programs was the result of ongoing transition efforts to connect families to appropriate services upon dismissal from Part C services. Though small in number, the increase in the percentage of children who died during the reporting period was influenced by several different factors that differed by region: in some areas of the state there was an increase in the number of children who were medically fragile and died of respiratory failure, and in another area, there was an increase in the number of children who were referred by hospice. This was particularly the case for girls. The increase in the percentage of families who withdrew from services was the result of a larger number of mobile and transient families, due in part to changing economic conditions.

Utah

Data were collected and compiled using BTOTS (Baby Toddler Online Tracking System), Utah's statewide data system. Each contracting early intervention provider verified the BTOTS data were complete and accurate. BTOTS data included 14 infants and toddlers exiting during the reporting period

with ethnicity other." Per discussion with Carol Bruce, DAC, Data Collection and Analysis Task Leader Westat, these data were included in the exit reason totals but not distributed across the racial categories.

West Virginia

West Virginia Birth to Three collected data for the noted time period according to the seven new race/ethnicity categories. In order to report these data according to five race/ ethnicity categories, the state collapsed the Asian and Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander categories and redistributed children within the category of two or more races to other categories according to each category's percentage of the total. Of the 58 children who exited with reason not eligible for Part B, exiting without referrals, 28 were listed as parent did not consent to transition planning. Of the 383 children who exited with reason Part B not determined, 134 children were listed as family requested referral not be made, and 239 were listed as referral has been made, awaiting Part B determination. Of the 334 children who exited with reason withdrawal by parent or guardian,"320 were listed as parents declined further IFSP services, and 10 were listed as parents were dissatisfied with IFSP services.

Wisconsin

The number of children who are Hispanic exiting the program increased. This change cannot be attributed to a single region of the state. Counties reported increased community support, such as interpreters at hospitals and clinics, and improved informed referral networks. In addition the availability of a family-centered tool in the Spanish language has increased the Part C Program's ability to identify children whose native language is Spanish.

The number of children who are American Indian/Alaskan Native increased by 26.98 percent from the previous year. The state attributed this to joint efforts between the Wisconsin Great Lakes Intertribal Council and WI Department of Health Services to build awareness and improve relationships between tribal and county partners.

The number of children who exited Part C were eligible for Part B increased by 12 percent. The state attributed this change to focused efforts between the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to improve the transition process from Part C to Part B.

The number of children who exited the program because attempts to contact were unsuccessful decreased. This decrease was a reflection of improved intake processes in the largest urban county in Wisconsin. This County continues to implement processes to follow families who are mobile and to reduce the amount of time from referral to contact of a family.

2007-08 Dispute Resolution

Arizona

Arizona does not use Part B procedures.

California

California does not use Part B due process hearing procedures.

Based on a technical assistance visit from OSEP (September 3-5, 2008), it was determined that the issue California has been experiencing with its year-to-year reporting on Table 4 Mediations, is as follows. Under California's due process system, mediation is not available for complaints filed. This process was

adopted prior to the 1997 *IDEA* reauthorization and was not restructured, as specified in *IDEA*. California has begun restructuring its system, but due to the significance of the change and a very large state program, estimated completion is June 2010.

Reasons for the cases that did not meet the 30-day timeline included 1) the cases were extended at the request of the parent; 2) the hearing was conducted on day 20 but the order was not signed until 14 days later; 3) one of the cases in which an extension was granted at the request of the parent was in regard to reimbursement of services to the family while the infant was enrolled in the program. The hearing was filed before the infant turned three years of age but was not decided until after the infant turned 3 years of age.

Florida

Florida had one fully adjudicated due process hearing. The hearing officer reached a decision after the 30-day timeline, which is required in 34 C.F.R. Sec. 303.423(b) for Part C procedures. Florida's Part C system did not elect to adopt the due process procedures under Part B, thus generating the mismatch in totals for Hearings fully adjudicated and Decisions within timeline – Part C Procedures.

Kansas

Kansas Part C did not adopt Part B procedures.

New York

The number of Written, Signed Complaints increased in New York since 2006-07 and the proportion of Complaints with Reports issued also increased. This increase is attributed to targeted effort to improve NYS system complaint process and complaint resolution timeliness

North Carolina

For hearing requests, North Carolina has not adopted Part B procedures.

Puerto Rico

The Puerto Rico early intervention services system has not adopted Part B due process procedures.

The increase in the total number of written, signed, and filed complaints and reports within timelines may be explained by: 1) all were filed at the Department of Health according to procedures implemented on May 2007; 2) local offices near the communities make the process more accessible to families; 3) the Pediatric Center staff was oriented on the new procedures and provided orientation to families; and 4) written materials on the procedures for filing complaints were distributed to families expressing any dissatisfaction with services.

South Dakota

South Dakota has a history of limited due process hearings in Part B and none in Part C. This is due to a strong commitment to resolution of issues and parent concerns before formal dispute resolution is necessary. The Part C state staff and service coordinators collaborate closely to make sure families understand their rights and resolve issues that arise in a timely manner. Families may, at any time, request formal dispute resolution.

Tennessee

For hearing requests, Tennessee uses Part C procedures, if needed.

Utah

The information for this table was compiled from a review of the complaint files that were submitted during the period July 1, 2007, through June 30, 2008. Utah has not adopted Part B procedures; therefore, resolution meetings and hearings fully adjudicated are reported as not applicable.

Vermont

For mediations related to due process and mediations not related to due process, Vermont Part C follows Part B's 45-day timeline procedures.

Washington

Washington has not adopted Part B procedures for resolution meetings, settlement agreements, or timeline decisions.