

# Children Enrolled in Early Intervention

## DEFINITION

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

## SIGNIFICANCE

During the first few years of life, children develop the basic brain architecture that serves as a foundation for all future development and learning. Early and effective intervention for vulnerable young children yields improved long-term outcomes.<sup>1</sup>

In 1986, Congress established Early Intervention (EI) services for infants and toddlers under the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)*. Part C of *IDEA* requires states to identify and provide appropriate EI services to children under age three who are developmentally delayed or have a diagnosed condition that is associated with a developmental delay. States may also choose to serve children who are at risk of experiencing a delay if early intervention services are not provided.<sup>2</sup>

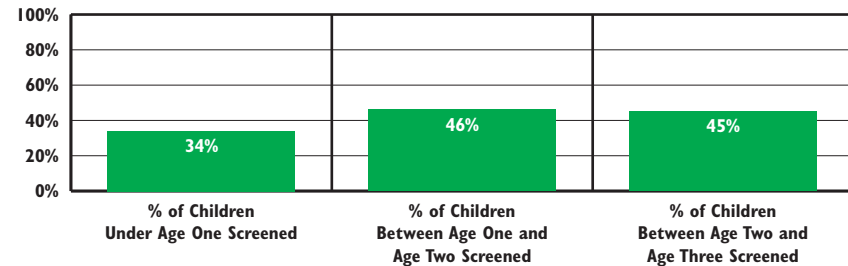
In Rhode Island, children are eligible for EI if they have a diagnosed medical disorder bearing relatively well-known expectancy for developmental delay (single established condition) or if they have a developmental delay in one or more areas of development (cognitive,

physical, communication, social-emotional, and adaptive). Current eligibility criteria allow children with significant circumstances (e.g., significant trauma/losses, history of abuse/neglect, family lacking basic resources, parental substance abuse, significant parental health/mental health issues, and intellectual disability of caretaker, among others) to qualify through informed clinical opinion if the circumstances impact child or family functioning.<sup>3</sup>

Approximately 15% of U.S. children ages three to 17 have developmental disabilities, with higher prevalence among children from low-income families and among boys. The percentage of children recognized with developmental disabilities has been increasing in recent years due to increased survival rates among preterm infants and children with birth defects/genetic disorders and improved awareness and diagnosis of many conditions.<sup>4</sup>

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that physicians use a standardized developmental screening tool during well-child visits in order to improve detection of developmental delays.<sup>5</sup> Early childhood developmental screenings are required and covered for all children with RIte Care coverage through the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment (EPSDT) mandate.<sup>6</sup>

**Developmental Screenings Completed, RIte Care Members Under Age 3, 2015**



Source: Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, 2015.

◆ As of June 30, 2016, there were 2,022 infants and toddlers receiving Early Intervention (EI) services, 6% of the population under age three. Nineteen percent were under age one, 32% were age one, and 50% were age two. Eighty-one percent were eligible under the developmental delay category and 19% were eligible under the single established condition category.<sup>7</sup>

◆ In Calendar Year 2016 in Rhode Island, 4,186 children received EI services, down from 4,359 in 2015.<sup>8,9</sup> In 2016, 952 children were discharged from EI upon reaching age three. Of these, 63% were found eligible and 20% were found not eligible for preschool special education. Fourteen percent were in the process of eligibility determination and 4% left the program for other reasons.<sup>10</sup>

◆ Because maltreated infants and toddlers are six times more likely to have a developmental delay, federal legislation requires states to refer children under age three who have been involved in a substantiated case of child abuse or neglect to EI for an eligibility assessment.<sup>11,12</sup>

◆ In 2016 in Rhode Island, there were 818 infants and toddlers under age three who were maltreated. Of these, 243 (30%) were referred to Early Intervention for an eligibility assessment, 265 (33%) were referred to First Connections for screening, 26 (3%) were already enrolled in EI or had otherwise been screened, and 284 (35%) were not referred for various reasons. Of the 818 victims of maltreatment in 2016, 133 (16%) had been found eligible for Early Intervention as of March 2017.<sup>13,14</sup>

# Children Enrolled in Early Intervention

Table 32.

Infants and Toddlers Enrolled in Early Intervention (EI) by Age, Rhode Island, 2016

CITY/TOWN	CALENDAR YEAR 2016 ENROLLMENT			JUNE 30, 2016 ENROLLMENT BY AGE OF CHILD				
	# OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 3	# OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN EI	% OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 3 ENROLLED IN EI	UNDER AGE 1	AGE 1	AGE 2	# OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 3 ENROLLED IN EI	% OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 3 ENROLLED IN EI
Barrington	366	44	12%	7	4	10	21	6%
Bristol	507	68	13%	7	7	14	28	6%
Burrillville	460	61	13%	5	12	9	26	6%
Central Falls	1,028	148	14%	13	26	38	77	7%
Charlestown	186	23	12%	3	1	5	9	5%
Coventry	940	108	11%	10	20	28	58	6%
Cranston	2,318	238	10%	28	36	66	130	6%
Cumberland	970	121	12%	7	17	35	59	6%
East Greenwich	299	53	18%	1	12	17	30	10%
East Providence	1,560	178	11%	11	30	34	75	5%
Exeter	166	18	11%	1	3	3	7	4%
Foster	113	12	11%	0	2	0	2	2%
Glocester	247	17	7%	0	0	3	3	1%
Hopkinton	258	26	10%	2	7	6	15	6%
Jamestown	85	13	15%	0	3	1	4	5%
Johnston	816	86	11%	9	10	18	37	5%
Lincoln	587	84	14%	9	6	26	41	7%
Little Compton	68	6	9%	0	3	1	4	6%
Middletown	502	83	17%	8	12	19	39	8%
Narragansett	271	31	11%	7	1	12	20	7%
New Shoreham	21	0	0%	0	0	0	0	0%
Newport	820	103	13%	11	18	22	51	6%
North Kingstown	728	93	13%	7	17	16	40	5%
North Providence	851	107	13%	12	15	30	57	7%
North Smithfield	290	43	15%	3	7	9	19	7%
Pawtucket	2,959	309	10%	25	43	83	151	5%
Portsmouth	429	46	11%	3	9	15	27	6%
Providence	7,609	1,011	13%	94	149	245	488	6%
Richmond	235	11	5%	0	1	2	3	1%
Scituate	193	33	17%	2	8	7	17	9%
Smithfield	402	39	10%	5	6	9	20	5%
South Kingstown	640	71	11%	3	15	17	35	5%
Tiverton	398	50	13%	3	7	13	23	6%
Warren	296	42	14%	2	5	11	18	6%
Warwick	2,322	302	13%	34	51	64	149	6%
West Greenwich	178	15	8%	0	5	2	7	4%
West Warwick	1,044	140	13%	10	27	28	65	6%
Westerly	726	60	8%	6	8	17	31	4%
Woonsocket	1,900	293	15%	27	36	73	136	7%
Four Core Cities	13,496	1,761	13%	159	254	439	852	6%
Remainder of State	20,292	2,425	12%	216	385	569	1,170	6%
Rhode Island	33,788	4,186	12%	375	639	1,008	2,022	6%

### Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, Center for Child and Family Health, Early Intervention enrollment, Calendar Year 2016 and June 30, 2016 enrollment (point-in-time).

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

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

### References

- <sup>1,2,11</sup> Jones, L. (2009). *Early experiences matter: A guide to improved policies for infants and toddlers*. Washington, DC: Zero to Three.
- <sup>3</sup> *Rhode Island Early Intervention policies and procedures: Eligibility determination*. (2013). Cranston, RI: Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services.
- <sup>4</sup> Boyle, C. A., et al. (2011). Trends in the prevalence of developmental disabilities in U.S. children, 1997-2008. *Pediatrics*, 127(6), 1034-1042.
- <sup>5</sup> Council on Children with Disabilities, Section on Developmental Behavioral Pediatrics, Bright Futures Steering Committee and Medical Home Initiatives for Children with Special Needs Project Advisory Committee. (2006). Identifying infants and young children with developmental disorders in the medical home: An algorithm for developmental surveillance and screening. *Pediatrics*, 118(1), 405-420.
- <sup>6</sup> *Birth to 5: Watch me thrive! CMS efforts to ensure children receive developmental and behavioral screening*. (n.d.). Retrieved February 21, 2017, from www.medicare.gov
- <sup>7,8,10,14</sup> Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, 2016.
- <sup>9</sup> Rhode Island Executive Office of Health and Human Services, 2015.
- <sup>12</sup> Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2013). *Addressing the needs of young children in child welfare: Part C- Early Intervention services*. Washington, DC: Children's Bureau.
- <sup>13</sup> Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth and Families, 2016.