

Children Enrolled in Early Head Start

DEFINITION

Children enrolled in Early Head Start is the number and percentage of low-income infants and toddlers enrolled in a Rhode Island Early Head Start program.

SIGNIFICANCE

Established in 1995, Early Head Start is a comprehensive early childhood program serving low-income children birth to age three, pregnant women, and their families. Early Head Start programs serve children in families with incomes below the federal poverty level (\$21,330 for a family of three in 2019).^{1,2,3} The federally-funded Early Head Start program is designed to address the comprehensive needs of low-income infants and toddlers and pregnant women by providing high-quality early education, nutrition and mental health services, medical and dental referrals, and fostering the development of healthy family relationships.⁴

Pregnant women enrolled in Early Head Start are assessed for risks to a successful pregnancy. Individualized plans are developed to support prenatal health, promote healthy behaviors, and prepare for the baby's arrival.⁵ After the baby is born, families participate by enrolling in either a center-based or a home-based program. Home-based programs use weekly home visits to support child development and twice-monthly group meetings. Children in center-based models attend a center-based early care

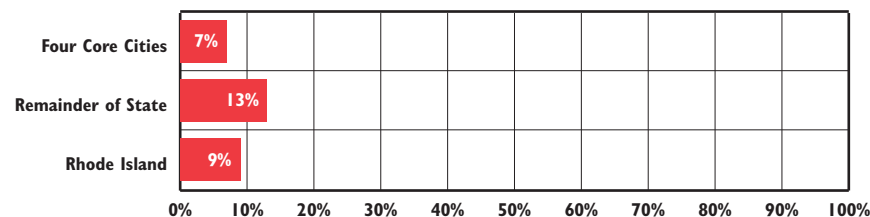
and education program and families receive at least two home visits per year. Some provide a combination of home-based and center-based services.⁶

As of October 2018, of the 656 children and pregnant women enrolled in Early Head Start, 393 (60%) were enrolled in home-based services and 263 (40%) were in center-based programs.⁷ An Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership grant awarded in 2015 created 100 new center-based Early Head Start slots in Rhode Island through partnerships with child care programs to increase the number of infants and toddlers enrolled.^{8,9}

Early Head Start has been shown to produce significant cognitive, language, and social-emotional gains in participating children and more positive interactions with their parents. Early Head Start parents provide more emotional support and more opportunities for language and learning to their children at home and are more likely to be involved in preschool. Early Head Start parents are less likely to experience depression and more likely to be self-sufficient (higher incomes). Children who enroll in high-quality preschool after Early Head Start have better outcomes at kindergarten entry.^{10,11}

As of October 2018, 644 infants and toddlers and 12 pregnant women were receiving Early Head Start services in Rhode Island, and there were 160 eligible pregnant women or children on the waiting list.¹²

Estimated Percentage of Eligible Infants and Toddlers Enrolled in Early Head Start, 2018



Source: Rhode Island Kid Count calculations using Early Head Start program enrollment October 2018 as the numerator and number of children under age three from Census 2010, Summary File 1 multiplied by the percentage of children under age six living in families with incomes below the federal poverty level according to the Population Reference Bureau's (PRB) analysis of 2013-2017 American Community Survey data as the denominator.

◆ As of October 2018 in Rhode Island, there were 656 children and pregnant women enrolled in Early Head Start, 9% of the population in poverty and 5% of the population in low-income families. There were 337 children and pregnant women from the four core cities (7% of the population in poverty and 5% of the population in low-income families). In the remainder of the state, 319 children and pregnant women were enrolled in Early Head Start (13% of the population in poverty and 6% of the population in low-income families).^{13,14}

◆ As of October 2018, 2% of Early Head Start clients were pregnant women, 15% were infants under age one, 31% were age one, 46% were toddlers age two, and 7% were age three.¹⁵

◆ Rhode Island Head Start programs serve significant numbers of children with high needs including: 105 infants and toddlers with developmental delays or disabilities (16% of all children enrolled), 40 children who were in foster care, and nine children who were homeless.¹⁶ Early Head Start programs are required to prioritize enrollment for children with special needs and to screen all enrolled children to identify developmental delays and disabilities.¹⁷

◆ As of October 2018, 30% of the children enrolled in Early Head Start were also participating in the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP).¹⁸ Center-based Early Head Start programs do not cover the entire day for many working parents. CCAP is used to provide additional coverage for working parents.¹⁹

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Table 34.

Children Ages Birth to Three and Pregnant Women Enrolled in Early Head Start, Rhode Island, 2018

SCHOOL DISTRICT	ESTIMATED # OF CHILDREN <AGE 3	% LOW-INCOME CHILDREN IN DISTRICT	ESTIMATED # LOW-INCOME CHILDREN <AGE 3	# ENROLLED IN HOME-BASED EARLY HEAD START	# ENROLLED IN CENTER-BASED EARLY HEAD START	# ENROLLED IN EARLY HEAD START	ESTIMATED % OF LOW-INCOME INFANTS AND TODDLERS ENROLLED IN EARLY HEAD START
Barrington	618	4%	25	0	0	0	0%
Bristol Warren	642	30%	193	5	3	8	4%
Burrillville	441	30%	132	6	8	14	11%
Central Falls	579	91%	527	36	18	54	10%
Chariho	570	20%	114	3	2	5	4%
Coventry	963	31%	299	8	8	16	5%
Cranston	2,220	43%	955	0	21	21	2%
Cumberland	939	19%	178	0	4	4	2%
East Greenwich	468	5%	23	2	0	2	9%
East Providence	1,068	48%	513	14	15	29	6%
Exeter-West Greenwich	324	16%	52	1	0	1	2%
Foster	102	24%	24	0	0	0	0%
Glocester	240	12%	29	0	0	0	0%
Jamestown	162	8%	13	0	0	0	0%
Johnston	708	45%	319	8	7	15	5%
Lincoln	606	27%	164	0	4	4	2%
Little Compton	48	12%	6	0	0	0	0%
Middletown	417	30%	125	2	9	11	9%
Narragansett	186	21%	39	0	2	2	5%
New Shoreham	36	16%	6	0	0	0	0%
Newport	462	66%	305	19	35	54	18%
North Kingstown	783	22%	172	8	2	10	6%
North Providence	642	38%	244	12	9	21	9%
North Smithfield	348	16%	56	1	0	1	2%
Pawtucket	1,995	76%	1,516	40	35	75	5%
Portsmouth	444	14%	62	2	0	2	3%
Providence	5,028	84%	4,224	178	15	193	5%
Scituate	447	18%	80	0	1	1	1%
Smithfield	471	14%	66	7	2	9	14%
South Kingstown	603	17%	103	5	2	7	7%
Tiverton	351	24%	84	2	0	2	2%
Warwick	1,920	29%	557	10	29	39	7%
West Warwick	843	50%	422	18	17	35	8%
Westerly	519	36%	187	6	0	6	3%
Woonsocket	1,422	79%	1,123	0	15	15	1%
Charter Schools	2,382	67%	1,596	NA	NA	NA	NA
RI School for the Deaf	15	66%	10	NA	NA	NA	NA
Four Core Cities	9,024	82%	7,400	254	83	337	5%
Remainder of State	18,591	29%	5,391	139	180	319	6%
Rhode Island	30,012	47%	14,106	393	263	656	5%

Source of Data for Table/Methodology

Rhode Island Early Head Start Programs, children enrolled as of October 2018. Children enrolled are listed by residence of child, not location of the Head Start program.

The estimated number of low-income children under age three in each school district is based on October 2018 kindergarten enrollment (3x kindergarten enrollment) multiplied by the percentage of students who qualified for free or reduced-price lunch (at or below 185% of the federal poverty level).

Due to changes in methodology, the percentage of children enrolled in Early Head Start should not be compared with Factbooks prior to 2018.

Charter Schools with kindergarten include: Achievement First Rhode Island, Blackstone Valley Prep Mayoral Academy, The Compass School, Paul Cuffee Charter School, Highlander Charter School, Hope Academy, International Charter School, Kingston Hill Academy, The Learning Community, RISE Prep Mayoral Academy, and South Side Elementary Charter School.

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

References

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