

**Local Program
Performance Ratings
(Early Start)**

**Introduction:
Strengths, Weakness and Limitations
of the Early Start Performance Data**

In reviewing this data it is important to consider the following:

1. For those indicators in which we rely on samples through manual data collection, readers must recognize that the performance data drawn from small sample sizes may not be representative of the regional center's actual performance.
2. Some regional centers may be more compliant for a target than what the data reflect but may not be documenting appropriately in the client records and therefore, the data extracted will show more non-compliance.
3. Per the Office of Special Education Program (OSEP) criteria, "timeliness" compliance is not measured in degrees but simply whether regional centers met the deadline (e.g. for services and Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) development). For example, a regional center may have every IFSP developed within 48 days and average 46 days, but will show poorly on the 45 day compliance measure.
4. Some regional centers are in a focused improvement mode and making significant progress but this will not show in the data reported here. Please refer to the color code below to determine the year in which the data was compiled. Conversely, the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) recognizes that there may be some recent slippage in some RC compliance data due to staffing shortages, vendor shortages, and interagency challenges.
5. Regarding the percentage of 0 - 36 month olds served, there are additional factors that should be considered when comparing California to the national average. California serves a fewer percentage of 0 - 3 year olds than the national average. This may be due to California demonstrating a better than the national average level of risk for many risk factors that are highly correlated with birth outcomes. These factors include but are not limited to:
 - a. Prenatal care
 - b. Premature births
 - c. Teen birth rate
 - d. Low birth weight
 - e. Female cigarette smoking rate
6. The number of infants/toddlers annually served in Early Start has increased significantly since 2001, placing an ever-increasing burden on regional centers to balance available resources between multiple programs and effectively address all the needs of the children and families. From 2001 to the end of June 2008, the program size increased from 27,285 to just over 55,000 infants/toddlers that received paid-for services from regional centers. This represents a 101 percent increase, an average annual growth of 10 ½ percent. Federal funding to address this growth has not materialized, but in spite of that, regional centers have continued to provide quality services.

In addition to the above general considerations, regional centers took the opportunity to provide information and feedback to put into context their performance regarding serving the infants/toddlers and families under the Early Start Program:

Regional Center of Orange County (RCOC)

RCOC has served, and continues to serve, the largest number of infants/toddlers in the state. It has experienced an average annual growth of 19 percent and since 2001 to 2008, total growth of 136 percent. Today, RCOC serves 12 percent of the state's Early Start infants/toddlers, with the next highest regional center serving eight percent. This significant caseload growth has been difficult to address over the years, especially in terms of available vendor resources and timeline requirements mandated by OSEP.

Please refer to the attached narrative following the tables for more discussion on specific indicators. Colors depicted in the tables indicate the following:

	Universal data results for fiscal year 2007/08
	Manual data results for fiscal year 2007/08
	Manual data results for fiscal year 2008/09

Indicator Area Performance Level (Target %/Actual Results %)

Programs	Target: Timely Services (45 Days)	Actual Results (Data)	Target: Services in Natural Environments	Actual Results (Data)	Child Outcomes	Actual Results	Family Rights	Actual Results	Target: Ages 0-1 Served	Actual Results (Data)
California	100%	94.7%	79.7%	88.75%	NA	NA	NA	NA	0.95%	1.26%
ACRC		94.9%		88.8%						0.85%
CVRC		79.5%		93.5%						1.29%
ELARC		96.1%		88.2%						0.46%
FDLRC		95.2%		87.2%						0.61%
FNRC		98.2%		95.5%						1.17%
GGRC		92.8%		83.8%						0.67%
HRC		98.3%		86.1%						1.03%
IRC		96.3%		94.3%						0.90%
KRC		91.1%		66.6%						1.19%
NBRC		93.8%		89.9%						0.75%
NLARC		98.3%		90.4%						0.84%
RCEB		91.2%		88.7%						0.67%
RCOC		96.5%		78.9%						0.81%
RCRC		90.9%		94.7%						0.81%
SARC		92.2%		79.2%						0.77%
SCLARC		85.5%		68.5%						0.51%
SDRC		90.6%		92.4%						0.66%
SGPRC		97.5%		88.8%						1.01%
TCRC		99.6%		92.6%						1.55%
VMRC		95.3%		98.5%						1.49%
WRC		97.5%		89.0%						1.03%

Programs	Target: Ages 0-3 Served	Actual Results (Data)	Target: IFSP (45 Days)	Actual Results (Site Visit)	Target: Transition Steps in IFSP	Actual Results (Site Visit)	Target: LEA Notification	Actual Results (Site Visit)	Target: Transition Conference Held	Actual Results (Site Visit)
California	1.85%	2.37%	100%	90.43%	100%	92.38%	100%	89.52%	100%	98.09%
ACRC		2.36%		67.6%		76.9%		84.6%		84.6%
CVRC		2.30%		79.2%		90.0%		100%		100%
ELARC		2.18%		100%		100%		85.2%		100%
FDLRC		2.04%		57.1%		50.0%		100%		100%
FNRC		2.68%		100%		100.0%		100%		100%
GGRC		2.13%		100%		75.0%		75%		100%
HRC		2.03%		100%		100%		100%		100%
IRC		1.71%		95.7		88.9%		55.6%		88.9%
KRC		2.65%		22.2%		100%		100%		100%
NBRC		2.49%		59.1%		87.5%		50.0%		100%
NLARC		2.75%		90.0%		100%		100%		100%
RCEB		2.11%		100%		100%		100%		100%
RCOC		2.61%		76.3%		77.8%		94.4%		88.9%
RCRC		2.56%		97.3%		100%		100%		100%
SARC		1.81%		61.5%		91.7%		100%		100%
SCLARC		1.30%		96.3%		100%		90.9%		100%
SDRC		1.73%		86.2%		75.0%		55.0%		95.0%
SGPRC		2.42%		90.3%		95.5%		90.9%		100%
TCRC		3.54%		81.3%		85.7%		100%		100%
VMRC		3.05%		63.9%		100%		79.0%		100%
WRC		2.97%		87.0%		100%		100%		100%

These tables represent DDS's analysis of regional center data submitted to the Department and the results of record reviews conducted for the Early Start Program. DDS will update these tables every January with the most current data available obtained through electronic (universal) and manual (sampling records on location) means. DDS is also working on moving from small sample sizes to universal reporting in several indicator areas in the tables.

Description of Indicators

- Timely Services (45 Days), Indicator #1: Percent of infants and toddlers with Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSP) who receive the early intervention services on their IFSPs in a timely manner. Timeliness is defined as the provision of initial Part C services listed in the infant/toddler's IFSP within, or no later than, 45 days from the date of the IFSP. The measurement of timeliness is derived from IFSP date data entered on the Early Start Report (ESR), which is the data tracking form used by regional centers for all Early Start participants, and data derived from service provider claim forms processed at the regional centers (month service was provided). Services that are not identified as primary services for improving infant/toddler outcomes are not included in the calculation.
- Services in Natural Environments, Indicator #2: Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who primarily receive early intervention services in the home or programs for typically developing children. The data used for reporting progress on this indicator comes from the Early Start Report's primary location of services data element, which uses data definitions and guidance as provided by OSEP. The eight locations listed for provision of services in the ESR are 1) early intervention program; 2) family child care; 3) home; 4) hospital, inpatient; 5) outpatient service facility; 6) regular nursery/child care; 7) residential facility; and 8) other setting.
- Child Outcomes, Indicator #3: Percent of infants and toddlers with IFSPs who demonstrate improved:
 - A. Positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships);
 - B. Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (including early language/communication); and
 - C. Use of appropriate behaviors to meet their needs.This indicator will not have an established baseline with targets until 2010 and is therefore not yet reportable by regional centers.
- Family Rights, Indicator #4: Percent of families participating in Part C who report that early intervention services have helped the family:
 - A. Know their rights;
 - B. Effectively communicate their children's needs; and
 - C. Help their children develop and learn.DDS reported to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) on Indicator #4 in fiscal year 2005/06 and is working with its representatives to finalize the results of a statewide survey.

- Ages 0-1 Served, Indicator #5: Percent of infants and toddlers birth to 1 with IFSPs compared to other states with similar eligibility definitions and national data. Measurement for this indicator uses data provided by OSEP that is posted on its contractor's website (Data Accountability Center) at the following location: http://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc9.asp#partcCC. For program comparability, California uses the data provided for Texas as it is most like California in terms of program eligibility criteria, geographic size, demography, urban-rural mix, ethnic mix, and migration patterns.

The data used for Indicator 5 limits comparisons of regional center to regional center because at any point in time, program population may vary from month to month due to the short time span that children may be enrolled the program.

- Ages 0-3 Served, Indicator #6: Percent of infants and toddlers birth to 3 with IFSPs compared to: other states with similar eligibility definitions; and national data. Measurement for this indicator uses data provided by OSEP that is posted on its contractor's website (Data Accountability Center) at the following location: http://www.ideadata.org/arc_toc9.asp#partcCC. For program comparability, California uses the data provided for Texas as it is most like California in terms of program eligibility criteria, geographic size, demography, urban-rural mix, ethnic mix, and migration patterns.

The data used for Indicator 6 limits comparisons of regional center to regional center because at any point in time, program population may vary from month to month due to the short time span that children may be enrolled the program.

- IFSP (45 days), Indicator #7: Percent of eligible infants and toddlers with IFSPs for whom an evaluation and assessment and an initial IFSP meeting were conducted within Part C's 45-day timeline. The data used for reporting progress on this indicator comes from On-Site Record Reviews conducted by DDS and includes comparison of the date of referral to the regional center and the IFSP date. In some cases, the actual number of days that exceeded the 45-day requirement may be small, but is still reportable. Additionally, in order to provide a more accurate, reportable measure of this indicator, DDS is planning on data changes that will eliminate sampling.
- Transition Steps in IFSP/LEA Notification/Transition Conferences Held, Indicator #8a, b, c: Percent of all children exiting Part C who received timely transition planning to support the child's transition to preschool and other appropriate community services by their third birthday including:
 - A. IFSPs with transition steps and services
 - B. Notification to LEA, if child potentially eligible for Part B: and
 - C. Transition conference, if child potentially eligible for Part B.

The data used for reporting progress on this indicator comes from On-Site Record Reviews conducted by DDS and includes reviewing the records of infants/toddlers eligible for, or transitioned to, Part B services.