

Head Start Program Facts

Fiscal Year 2016

Established in 1965, Head Start promotes school readiness for children in low-income families by offering educational, nutritional, health, social, and other services. Since its inception, Head Start has served more than 34 million children, birth to age 5, and their families. In 2016, Head Start was funded to serve nearly one million children and pregnant women in centers, family homes, and in family child care homes in urban, suburban, and rural communities throughout the nation. ([More on Head Start](#))

Throughout this fact sheet, unless otherwise specified, the term "Head Start" refers to the Head Start program as a whole, including: Head Start services to preschool children; Early Head Start services to infants, toddlers, and pregnant women; services to families by American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) programs; and services to families by Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) programs.

The term "funded enrollment" refers to the number of children and pregnant women that are supported by federal Head Start funds in a program at any one time during the program year; these are sometimes referred to as enrollment slots. Funded enrollment numbers include enrollment slots funded by state or other funds when used by grantees as required nonfederal match. States may provide additional funding to local Head Start programs, which is not included in federal Head Start reporting.

The term "cumulative enrollment" refers to the actual number of children and pregnant women that Head Start programs serve throughout the entire program year, inclusive of enrollees who left during the program year and the enrollees who filled those empty places. Due to turnover, more children and families may receive Head Start services cumulatively throughout the program year, all of whom are reported in the Program Information Report (PIR), than indicated by the funded enrollment numbers.

Federal Appropriations

The Congress of the United States authorizes the amount of federal spending for Head Start each year. The Head Start program is administered by the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Federal grants are awarded directly to public agencies, private nonprofit and for-profit organizations, tribal governments, and school systems for the purpose of operating Head Start programs in local communities.

Activity	Appropriation
Local Head Start Program	\$7,927,153,582
Early Head Start Expansion and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships	\$635,000,000
Funding to Increase Hours of Program Operation	\$294,000,000
Training and Technical Assistance	\$203,538,782
Research, Demonstration, and Evaluation	\$19,960,476

Monitoring Support	\$41,950,790
Program Support	\$21,491,370
Designation Renewal System (DRS) Transitions Support	\$25,000,000
Total	\$9,168,095,000

Actual Federal Funding and Funded Enrollment by State

The Head Start program serves children, families, and pregnant women in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and six territories. The table in this section presents the total actual funding awarded and funded enrollment of Head Start programs in each state and territory.

American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) funding is awarded to AIAN tribal governments. AIAN programs operate in 26 states, and in some cases their services cross state lines. Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) funding and funded enrollment are shown as one total, as this program supports children and families who receive services in various states during the year. Thus, federal funding and funded enrollment for these services cannot simply be attributed to individual states.

Federal Funding and Funded Enrollment				
State/Territory	Head Start (excl. AIAN)		AIAN ¹	
	Federal Funding	Funded Enrollment	Federal Funding	Funded Enrollment
Alabama	\$140,702,210	16,414		
Alaska	\$14,954,571	1,494	\$26,137,944	1,797
Arizona	\$139,932,479	13,678	\$42,933,187	3,848
Arkansas	\$89,109,613	9,838		
California	\$1,094,230,167	96,258	\$11,309,553	799
Colorado	\$93,033,219	10,379	\$2,542,719	188
Connecticut	\$66,043,700	6,383		
Delaware	\$17,431,814	2,242		
District of Columbia	\$29,329,416	3,289		
Florida	\$366,094,539	39,249		
Georgia	\$232,819,337	25,033		
Hawaii	\$28,461,325	3,040		
Idaho	\$30,018,417	3,053	\$3,903,937	319
Illinois	\$355,108,783	40,399		
Indiana	\$126,877,245	14,733		

Iowa	\$64,847,595	7,449		
Kansas	\$65,531,577	7,437	\$1,184,729	84
Kentucky	\$143,589,046	16,097		
Louisiana	\$180,767,741	21,187		
Maine	\$35,452,428	3,137	\$821,642	60
Maryland	\$98,558,454	10,120		
Massachusetts	\$135,372,279	12,284		
Michigan	\$297,675,414	30,379	\$7,592,059	603
Minnesota	\$96,666,494	11,364	\$12,042,644	955
Mississippi	\$197,454,022	24,255	\$2,440,126	268
Missouri	\$156,662,621	15,021		
Montana	\$29,181,554	3,059	\$18,894,603	1,790
Nebraska	\$49,167,835	4,826	\$3,466,667	298
Nevada	\$37,717,203	3,072	\$3,869,983	362
New Hampshire	\$17,283,202	1,640		
New Jersey	\$172,509,276	16,053		
New Mexico	\$67,755,179	7,512	\$18,563,699	1,713
New York	\$547,552,882	50,748	\$1,422,372	143
North Carolina	\$211,750,756	21,408	\$3,065,481	230
North Dakota	\$21,272,786	2,147	\$10,974,598	983
Ohio	\$324,549,262	36,145		
Oklahoma	\$116,906,721	14,396	\$28,604,483	2,907
Oregon	\$83,621,349	13,045	\$4,001,708	380
Pennsylvania	\$298,262,784	36,013		
Rhode Island	\$28,884,499	2,803		
South Carolina	\$114,169,321	12,549	\$1,024,615	80
South Dakota	\$23,683,258	2,874	\$19,415,588	1,778
Tennessee	\$158,249,996	17,430		
Texas	\$635,572,228	72,657	\$478,196	34
Utah	\$53,586,801	5,978	\$2,051,642	215
Vermont	\$18,194,079	1,425		
Virginia	\$133,172,846	14,397		
Washington	\$135,155,100	11,952	\$16,147,884	1,439

West Virginia	\$65,259,418	8,078		
Wisconsin	\$122,149,024	13,954	\$11,389,432	1,032
Wyoming	\$15,377,527	1,607	\$3,075,989	295
American Samoa	\$2,358,516	1,332		
Guam	\$2,581,539	534		
No. Marianas	\$3,972,303	526		
Palau	\$1,462,665	400		
Puerto Rico	\$302,093,267	37,130		
Virgin Islands	\$9,810,039	1,014		
<i>Subtotal:</i>	<i>\$8,099,987,721</i>	<i>860,916</i>	<i>\$257,355,480</i>	<i>22,600</i>
MSHS	\$369,856,089	32,087		
Total				
	Funding	\$8,727,199,290		
	Enrollment	915,603		
¹ AIAN funding is awarded to American Indian and Alaska Native Tribes. For reference, the funding and enrollment has been split out by the state in which the Tribe is headquartered. Some Tribes serve children across state lines.				

Program Year Statistics

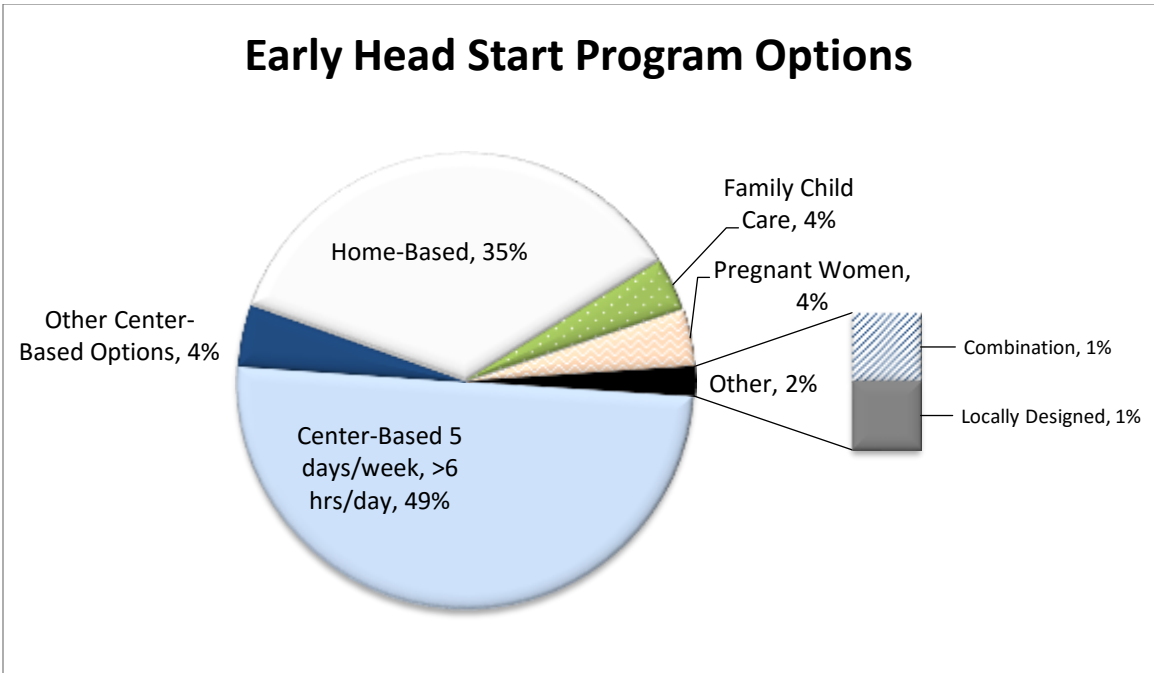
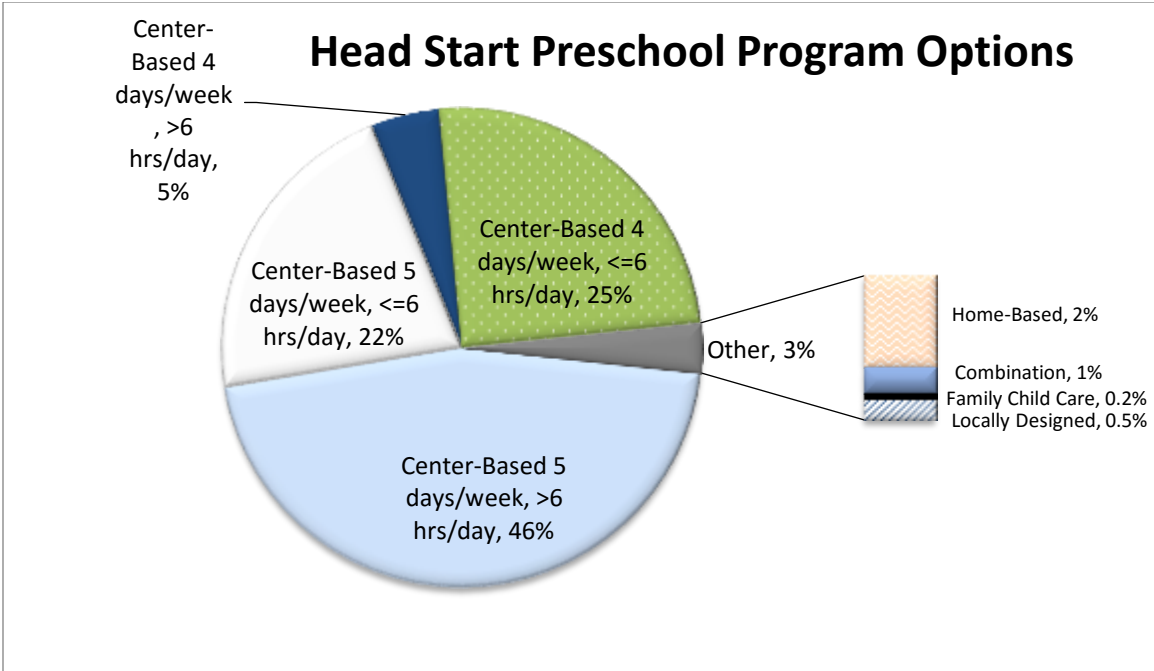
Each year, Head Start programs are required to submit Program Information Reports (PIR) on the services they have provided to children and families throughout the program year, including child, family and staff demographics and program characteristics.

For a copy of the PIR form, detailed reports and data sets for the 2016 PIR and prior years, and for further information, please visit: <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/pir>.

Program Characteristics:

- Thirty-three percent of grantees operated Head Start preschool services only.
- Twenty-five percent of grantees operated Early Head Start (EHS) services only.
- Forty-two percent of grantees operated both Head Start and Early Head Start services.

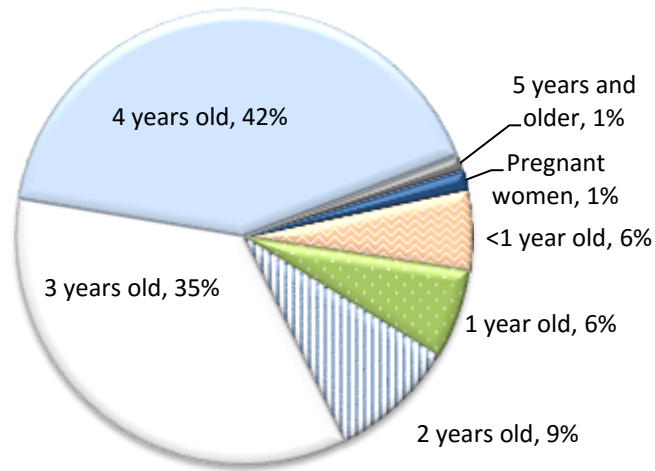
Most Head Start preschool services were provided in center-based settings that, based on local design, vary in the number of days per week and hours per day classes are in session. Over half of EHS services were provided in center-based settings, and less than half were offered in home-based program settings.



Child and Family Demographics:

Head Start programs cumulatively served 1,100,000 children ages birth to 5 and pregnant women throughout the 2015-16 program year.

Cumulative Enrollment by Age

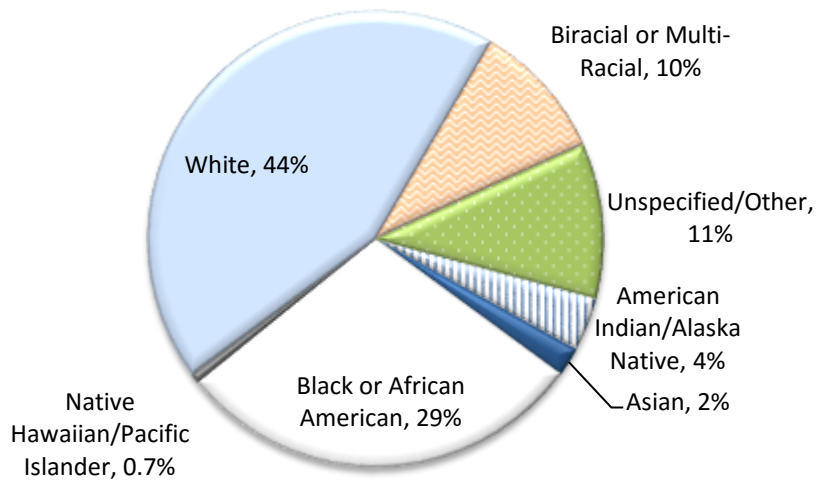


Head Start served a diverse group of children, families, and pregnant women. Thirty-seven percent identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino, and 29 percent were Black/African American.

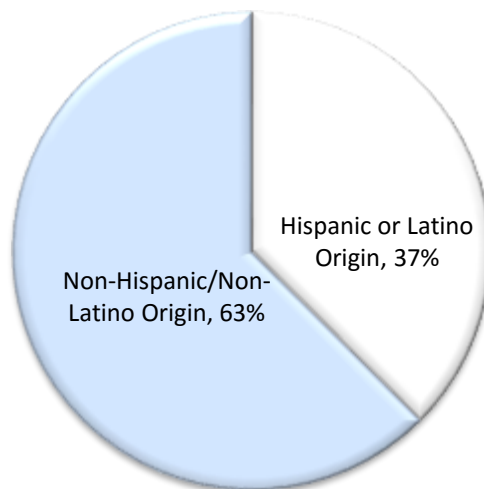
Families were asked to self-identify both an ethnicity and a race category based on U.S. Census Bureau measures. For example, a family that identifies their child as Black and Cuban was counted in the "Black or African American" race category for the race question and counted in the "Hispanic or Latino" category for the separate question on ethnicity.

Twenty nine percent of participants were from families that primarily spoke a language other than English at home. Nearly 24 percent of participants were from families that primarily spoke Spanish at home.

Race

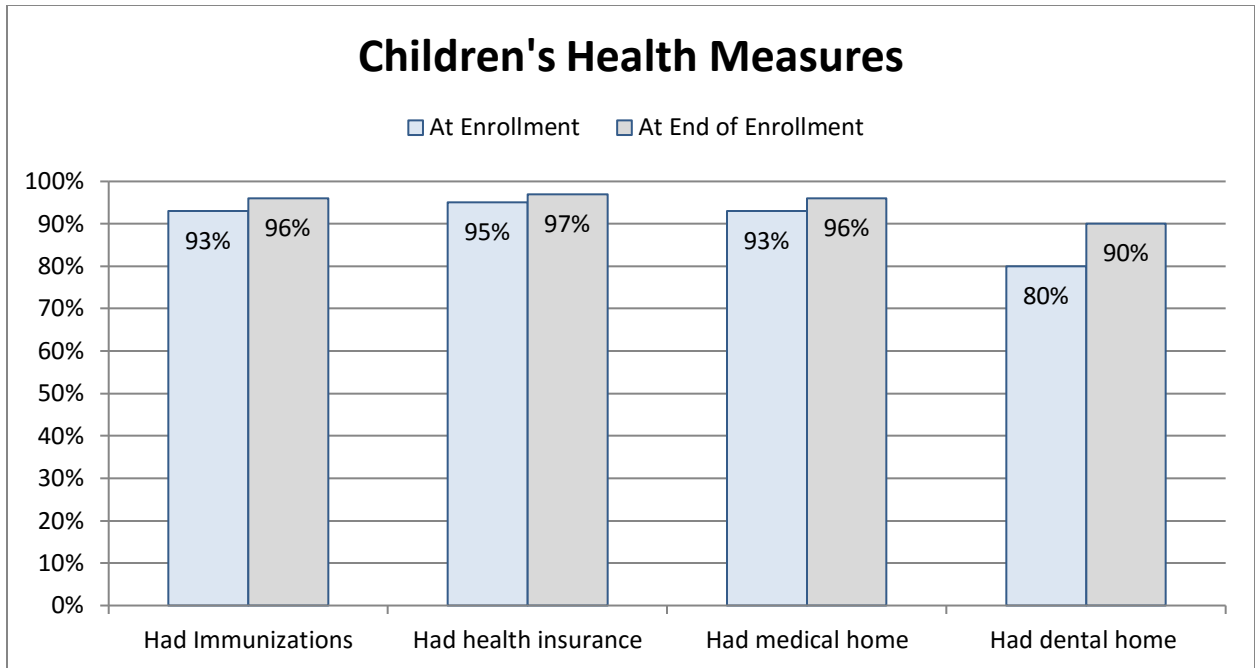


Ethnicity



Services to Children and Families:

Head Start programs work with families to help ensure children have access to needed services and resources. The number of children who received immunizations increased from the beginning of the program year to the end of the program year. Also, more families had health insurance and medical and dental homes for their children at the end of the 2015–16 program year than at the beginning.



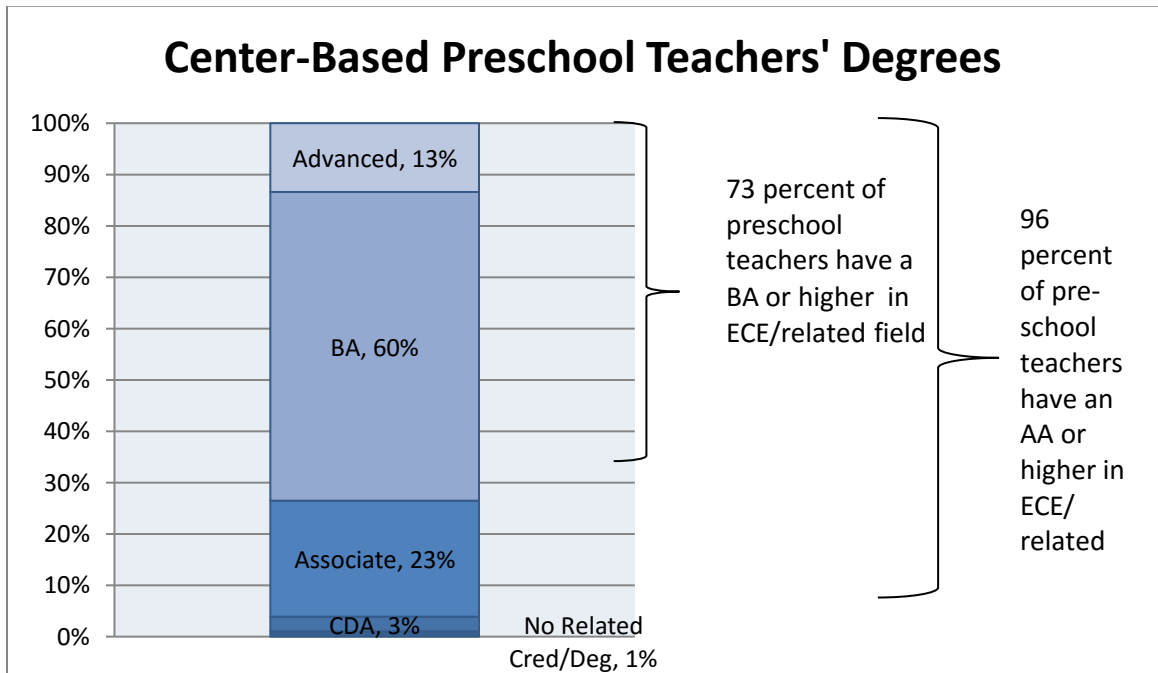
Head Start programs work with families to ensure they have the means to obtain health insurance, services for children with disabilities, adequate housing, job training, and more. In FY 2016:

- Most children had public health insurance. At the end of the program year, 90 percent of children were enrolled in Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program 201(CHIP), or a state funded child health insurance program.
- Twelve percent of Head Start cumulative enrollment was made up of children with disabilities, defined as children having special plans under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). In comparison, nationally, about three percent of infants and toddlers and six percent of preschool-age children have identified disabilities. Head Start serves a greater percentage of children with disabilities than found in the overall population.
- Among pregnant women enrolled in EHS, approximately 89 percent received prenatal education on fetal development and 21 percent had medically high risk pregnancies.
- Head Start served about 1,000,000 families cumulatively throughout the program year. The number of families served is a little less than the number of participants served, since some families have more than one child enrolled.
- Approximately 48,000 families served during the enrollment year experienced homelessness. Of those families, 35 percent found housing during the program year. Nearly 79,000 Head Start families received housing assistance such as subsidies, utilities, and repairs.
- Approximately 179,000 families or 18 percent, received services related to job training and adult education such as GED programs and college selection.

Program Staff:

Head Start programs employed and contracted with 259,000 staff. Parents of current or former Head Start children made up 23 percent of Head Start staff.

- More than 1.1 million adults volunteered in their local Head Start program. Of these, 784,000 were parents of Head Start children.
- About 127,000 staff members provided child development services to children, including teachers, assistant teachers, home visitors, and family child care providers.
- Among child development staff, 30 percent were proficient in a language other than English.
- Seventy-three percent of all Head Start center-based preschool teachers had a Baccalaureate degree or higher in early childhood education, or in a related field with experience. The Head Start Act specifies that 50 percent of center-based preschool teachers nationwide should have these credentials by 2013.



Head Start Federal Funding and Funded Enrollment History

Coming soon. See the [2015 Fact Sheet](#) for the most current information available.