

Head Start Program Facts

Fiscal Year 2017

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 35 million children, birth to age 5, and their families. In 2017, 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 operating Head Start programs in local communities.

Activity	Amount
Head Start Program, incl. Early Head Start-Child Care Partnerships	\$8,875,646,195
Training and Technical Assistance	\$223,705,793
Research, Demonstration, and Evaluation	\$21,936,864
Monitoring Support	\$41,816,347
Program Support	\$36,510,058
Designation Renewal System (DRS) Transitions Support	\$24,922,242
Total	\$9,224,537,499

Annual 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.

Annual Federal Funding and Funded Enrollment

<i>State/Territory</i>	Head Start (excl. AIAN)		AIAN¹	
	Federal Funding	Funded Enrollment	Federal Funding	Funded Enrollment
<i>Alabama</i>	\$139,559,876	15,631		
<i>Alaska</i>	\$16,520,308	1,506	\$26,845,416	1,845
<i>Arizona</i>	\$147,668,314	13,581	\$40,606,985	3,939
<i>Arkansas</i>	\$90,071,346	9,983		
<i>California</i>	\$1,141,493,769	92,687	\$10,834,158	831
<i>Colorado</i>	\$100,896,672	10,190	\$2,489,164	183
<i>Connecticut</i>	\$65,149,906	6,140		
<i>Delaware</i>	\$18,981,888	2,194		
<i>District of Columbia</i>	\$31,039,253	3,533		
<i>Florida</i>	\$366,644,876	39,697		
<i>Georgia</i>	\$229,928,415	24,597		
<i>Hawaii</i>	\$28,202,845	2,950		
<i>Idaho</i>	\$32,293,169	2,985	\$3,823,120	319
<i>Illinois</i>	\$353,165,142	39,133		
<i>Indiana</i>	\$134,560,221	14,203		
<i>Iowa</i>	\$67,089,324	7,449		
<i>Kansas</i>	\$69,953,550	7,412	\$1,668,908	109
<i>Kentucky</i>	\$151,698,092	15,984		
<i>Louisiana</i>	\$182,861,782	21,147		
<i>Maine</i>	\$36,450,715	3,098	\$809,872	60
<i>Maryland</i>	\$99,919,960	10,069		
<i>Massachusetts</i>	\$139,818,066	12,008		
<i>Michigan</i>	\$313,862,640	30,248	\$7,077,751	598
<i>Minnesota</i>	\$100,504,174	11,338	\$12,563,619	1,009
<i>Mississippi</i>	\$200,857,179	23,902	\$2,202,100	268
<i>Missouri</i>	\$162,556,555	14,997		
<i>Montana</i>	\$31,167,253	3,079	\$17,080,549	1,790
<i>Nebraska</i>	\$49,547,684	4,829	\$4,642,384	330
<i>Nevada</i>	\$37,053,862	3,096	\$3,832,290	362
<i>New Hampshire</i>	\$18,311,447	1,563		
<i>New Jersey</i>	\$167,287,070	15,943		
<i>New Mexico</i>	\$67,976,241	7,512	\$17,704,472	1,713

New York	\$549,935,156	50,432	\$1,271,558	143
North Carolina	\$204,907,482	21,403	\$2,766,454	230
North Dakota	\$22,032,234	1,988	\$10,204,063	983
Ohio	\$331,997,649	35,365		
Oklahoma	\$115,335,976	14,409	\$29,373,619	3,075
Oregon	\$88,884,019	12,913	\$4,135,369	408
Pennsylvania	\$305,318,439	35,866		
Rhode Island	\$29,737,698	2,781		
South Carolina	\$113,725,844	12,604	\$924,667	80
South Dakota	\$24,713,597	2,764	\$19,342,076	1,806
Tennessee	\$157,404,163	17,260		
Texas	\$623,119,626	72,402	\$431,549	34
Utah	\$59,919,954	5,715	\$1,851,511	215
Vermont	\$19,123,591	1,473		
Virginia	\$133,468,488	14,264		
Washington	\$142,530,419	11,962	\$17,376,824	1,451
West Virginia	\$65,472,936	7,947		
Wisconsin	\$127,252,828	13,820	\$11,101,386	1,032
Wyoming	\$17,533,594	1,590	\$2,775,936	295
American Samoa	\$3,669,962	1,332		
Guam	\$2,989,632	534		
No. Marianas	\$3,220,853	526		
Palau	\$1,685,246	350		
Puerto Rico	\$293,708,647	32,223		
Virgin Islands	\$9,891,940	1,014		
Subtotal:	\$8,240,671,567	845,622	\$253,735,800	23,108
MSHS	\$383,009,323	30,644		

Total	
Funding	\$8,877,416,690
Enrollment	899,374

¹AIAN 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.

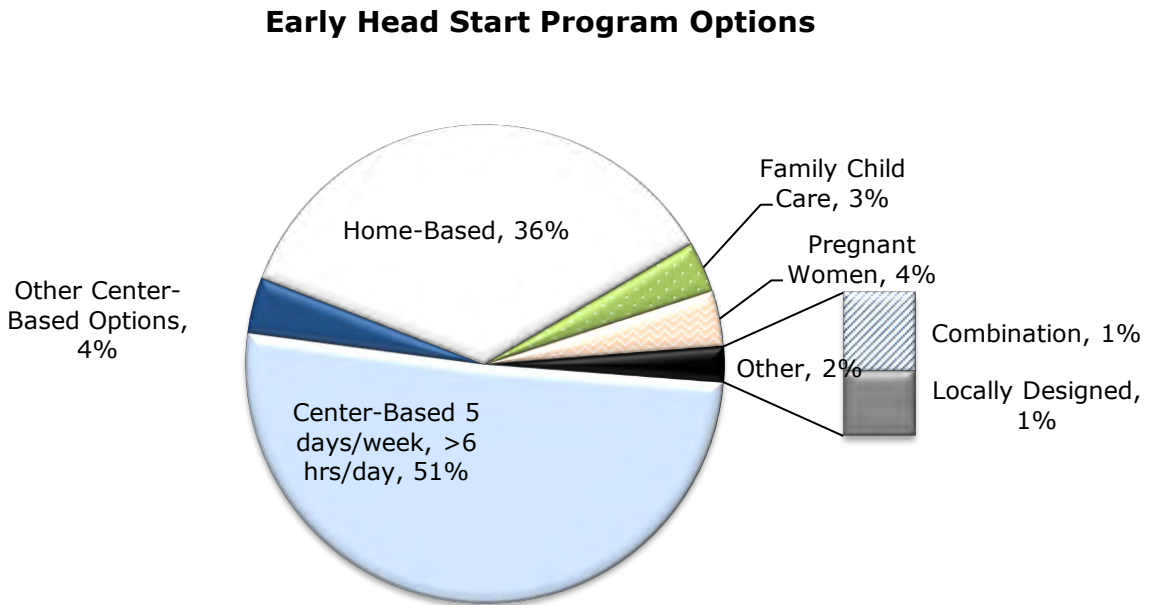
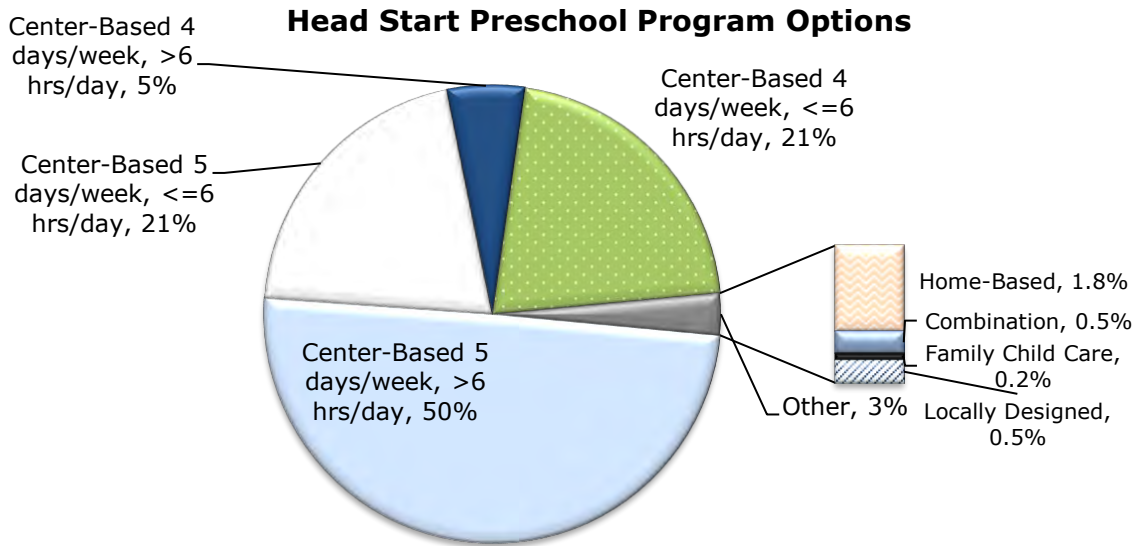
For a copy of the PIR form, detailed reports, and data sets for the 2017 PIR and prior years, and for further information, please visit: <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/pir>

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.

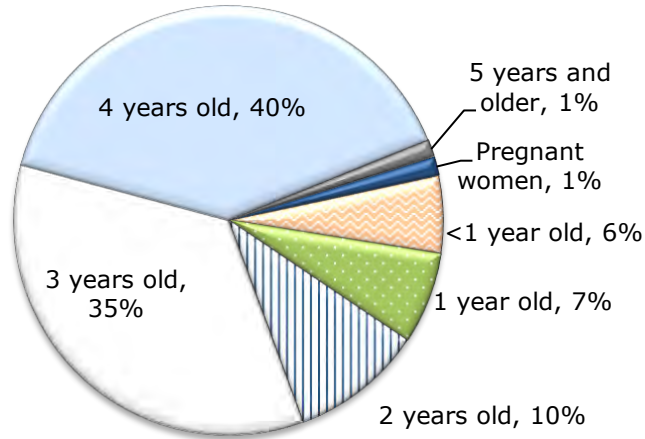
Most Head Start preschool services were provided in center-based settings that, based on local design, vary in the number of days per week and hours per day classes are in session. Over half of EHS services were provided in center-based settings, and less than half were offered in home-based program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



Child and Family Demographics:

Head Start programs cumulatively served 1,070,000 children ages birth to 5 and pregnant women throughout the 2016–2017 program year.

Cumulative Enrollment by Age

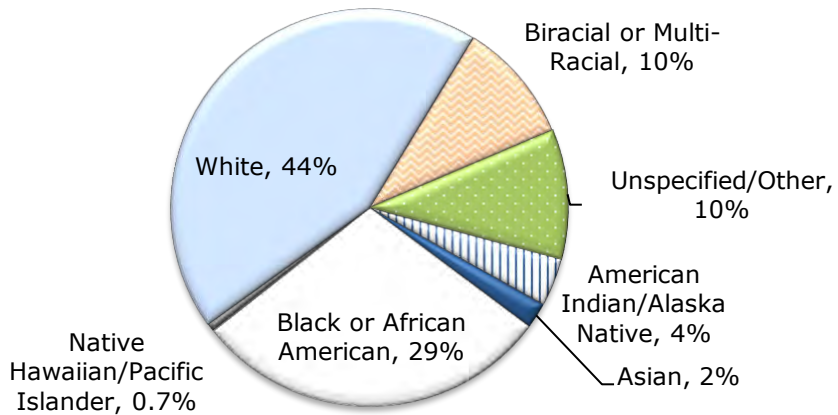


Head Start served a diverse group of children, families, and pregnant women. Thirty-seven percent identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino, and 29 percent were Black/African-American.

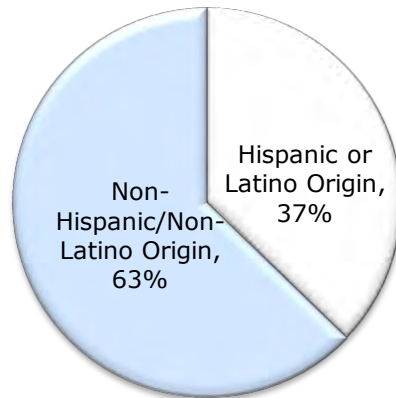
Families were asked to self-identify both an ethnicity and a race category based on U.S. Census Bureau measures. For example, a family that identifies their child as Black and Cuban was counted in the "Black or African-American" race category for the race question and counted in the "Hispanic or Latino" 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. Approximately 23 percent of participants were from families that primarily spoke Spanish at home.

Race



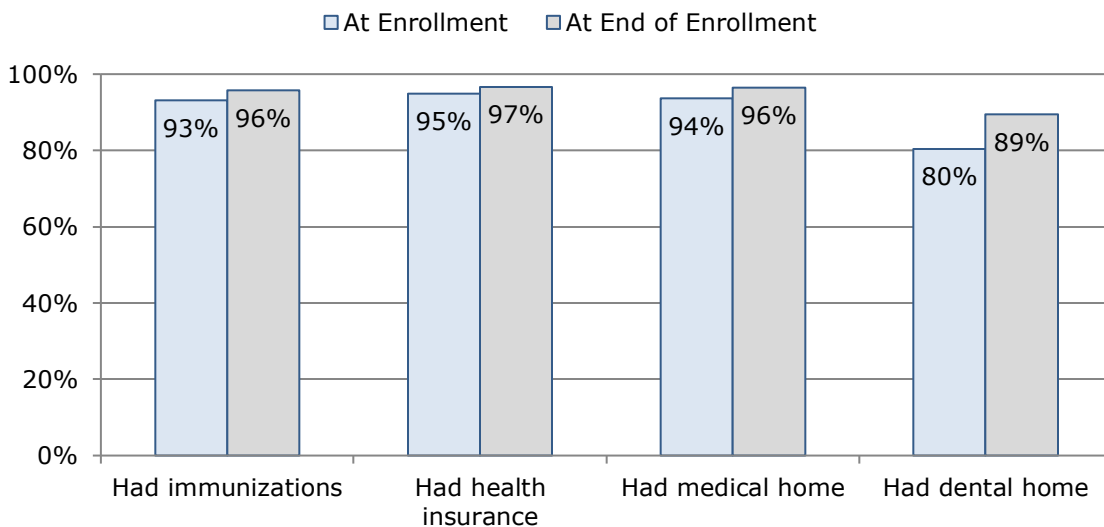
Ethnicity



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 2016–17 program year than at the beginning.

Children's Health Measures



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 fiscal year 2017:

- 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 (CHIP), or a state-funded child health insurance program.
- Thirteen 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 87 percent received prenatal education on fetal development and 21 percent had medically high risk pregnancies.
- Head Start served about 974,000 families cumulatively throughout the program year. The number of families served is less than the number of participants served, since some families have more than one child enrolled.
- Approximately 49,000 families served during the enrollment year experienced homelessness. Of those families, 34 percent found housing during the program year. Approximately 71,000 Head Start families received housing assistance, such as subsidies, utilities, and repairs.
- Approximately 163,000 families, or 17 percent, received services related to job training and adult education, such as general equivalency diploma (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 one million adults volunteered in their local Head Start program. Of these, 769,000 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 had these credentials by 2013.

Center-Based Preschool Teacher Degrees

