

Head Start Program Facts

Fiscal Year 2018

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 36 million children, birth to age 5, and their families. In 2018, Head Start was funded to serve nearly 1 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	\$9,472,946,340
Training and Technical Assistance	\$235,385,242
Research, Demonstration, and Evaluation	\$24,293,069
Monitoring Support	\$41,994,027
Program Support	\$39,324,335
Designation Renewal System (DRS) Transitions Support	\$24,750,000
Total	\$9,838,693,013

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>	\$143,506,782	15,255		
<i>Alaska</i>	\$16,990,529	1,518	\$27,315,052	1,845
<i>Arizona</i>	\$151,261,832	13,423	\$33,763,715	3,229
<i>Arkansas</i>	\$92,081,850	9,967		
<i>California</i>	\$1,173,973,635	91,231	\$11,137,473	801
<i>Colorado</i>	\$103,819,522	9,474	\$2,560,527	183
<i>Connecticut</i>	\$66,995,105	5,875		
<i>Delaware</i>	\$19,518,534	2,147		
<i>District of Columbia</i>	\$31,913,607	3,509		
<i>Florida</i>	\$376,991,324	39,655		
<i>Georgia</i>	\$236,460,419	24,363		
<i>Hawaii</i>	\$29,002,038	2,959		
<i>Idaho</i>	\$31,755,165	2,956	\$3,932,729	319
<i>Illinois</i>	\$363,169,807	34,904		
<i>Indiana</i>	\$138,388,507	14,119		
<i>Iowa</i>	\$67,693,469	7,202		
<i>Kansas</i>	\$71,953,412	7,406	\$1,716,680	109
<i>Kentucky</i>	\$156,020,771	15,830		
<i>Louisiana</i>	\$188,036,102	21,049		
<i>Maine</i>	\$37,487,962	3,048	\$833,119	60
<i>Maryland</i>	\$102,761,089	9,541		
<i>Massachusetts</i>	\$143,821,413	12,002		
<i>Michigan</i>	\$322,772,191	30,232	\$7,279,669	598
<i>Minnesota</i>	\$103,367,874	11,202	\$12,921,322	1,009
<i>Mississippi</i>	\$206,565,616	23,640	\$2,264,707	268
<i>Missouri</i>	\$167,211,107	14,952		
<i>Montana</i>	\$32,050,444	3,061	\$17,561,378	1,790
<i>Nebraska</i>	\$50,953,745	4,819	\$4,521,426	330
<i>Nevada</i>	\$38,247,816	2,954	\$3,942,281	362
<i>New Hampshire</i>	\$18,834,273	1,563		

New Jersey	\$171,816,866	15,775		
New Mexico	\$69,904,056	7,512	\$26,568,426	2,453
New York	\$564,745,959	50,288	\$1,307,709	143
North Carolina	\$210,677,222	21,309	\$2,816,936	230
North Dakota	\$22,656,981	1,964	\$8,723,149	840
Ohio	\$341,431,136	34,831		
Oklahoma	\$119,170,464	14,313	\$29,724,208	3,041
Oregon	\$89,625,254	12,716	\$4,252,927	408
Pennsylvania	\$314,025,088	35,678		
Rhode Island	\$30,583,690	2,696		
South Carolina	\$116,934,865	12,604	\$950,956	80
South Dakota	\$25,417,918	2,759	\$21,663,286	1,949
Tennessee	\$161,868,221	17,197		
Texas	\$642,483,951	72,053	\$443,707	34
Utah	\$61,625,674	5,671	\$2,138,155	236
Vermont	\$19,665,325	1,447		
Virginia	\$137,254,439	14,230		
Washington	\$149,498,318	11,985	\$17,877,450	1,451
West Virginia	\$67,330,645	7,937		
Wisconsin	\$130,869,509	13,380	\$11,419,519	1,032
Wyoming	\$18,038,075	1,590	\$2,854,858	295
American Samoa	\$3,778,245	1,332		
Guam	\$3,075,810	534		
No. Marianas	\$3,311,450	460		
Palau	\$1,733,801	350		
Puerto Rico	\$302,032,444	32,223		
Virgin Islands	\$10,173,175	1,014		
Subtotal:	\$8,473,334,521	833,704	\$260,491,364	23,095
MSHS	\$393,415,798	30,326		

Total	
Funding	\$9,127,241,683
Enrollment	887,125

**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

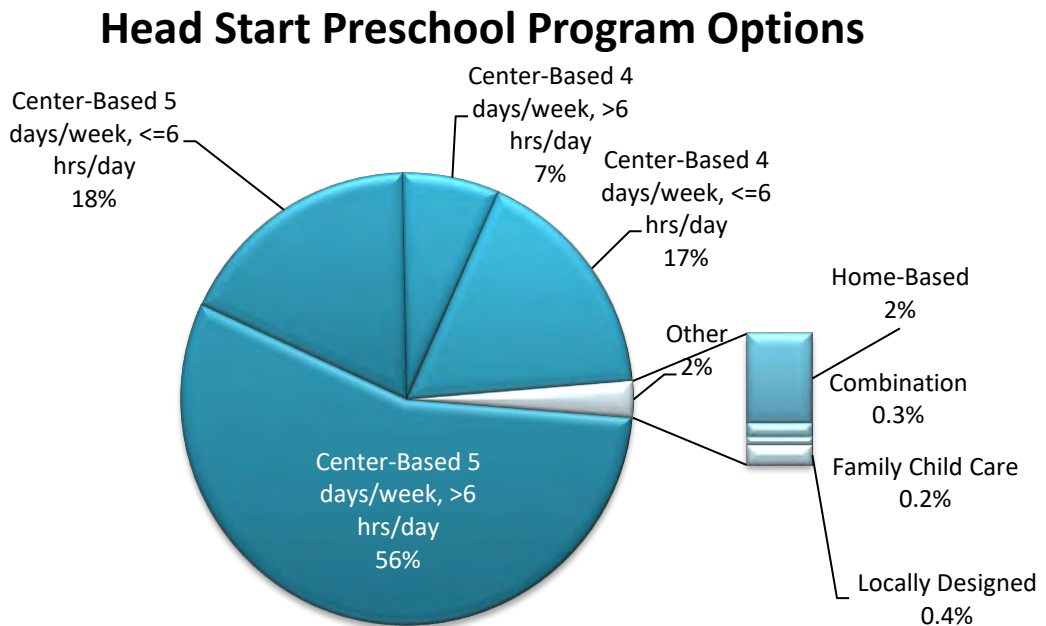
Each year, Head Start programs are required to submit Program Information Reports (PIR) on the services they have provided to children and families throughout the program year, including child, family, and staff demographics and program characteristics.

For a copy of the PIR form, detailed reports, and data sets for the 2018 PIR and prior years, and for further information, please visit: <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/pir>

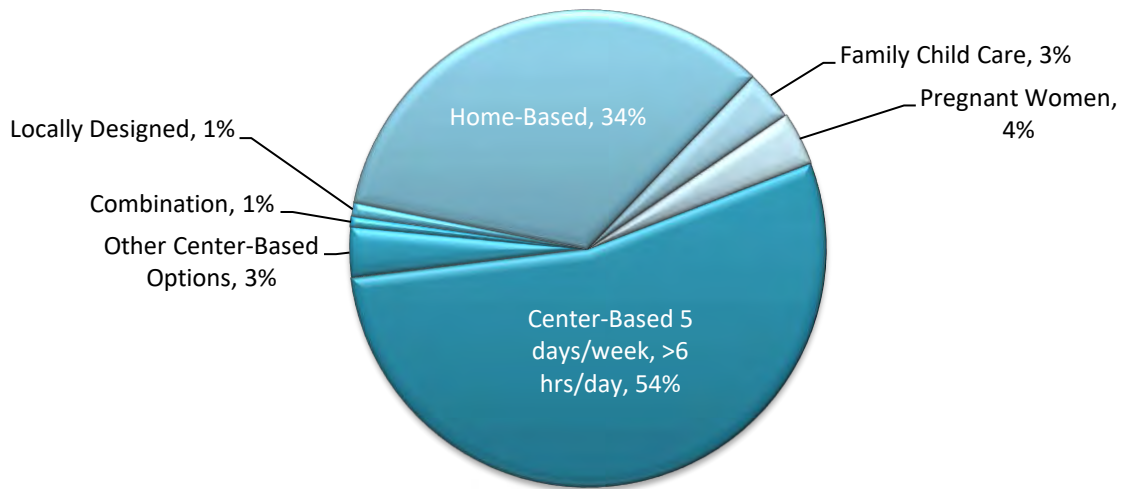
Program Characteristics:

- Twenty-nine percent of grantees operated Head Start preschool services only.
- Twenty-seven percent of grantees operated Early Head Start (EHS) services only.
- Forty-three 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.



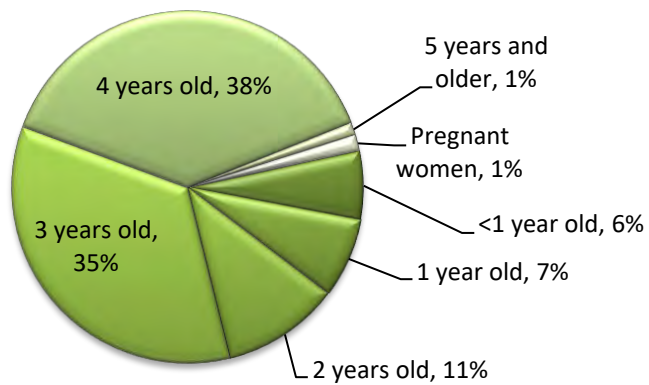
Early Head Start Program Options



Child and Family Demographics:

Head Start programs cumulatively served 1,050,000 children ages birth to 5 and pregnant women throughout the 2017–2018 program year.

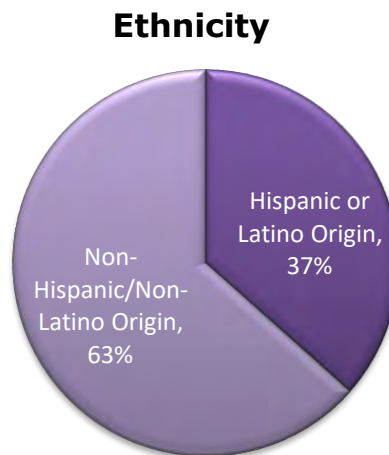
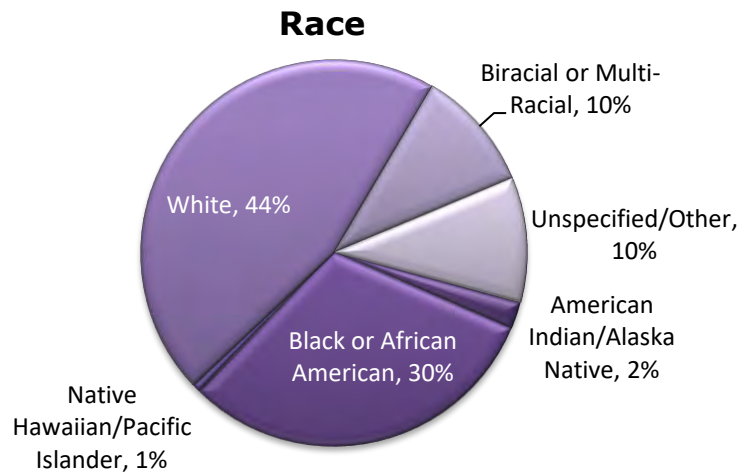
Cumulative Enrollment by Age



Head Start served a diverse group of children, families, and pregnant women. Thirty-seven percent identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino, and 30 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-eight percent of participants were from families that primarily spoke a language other than English at home. Approximately 22 percent of participants were from families that primarily spoke Spanish at home.

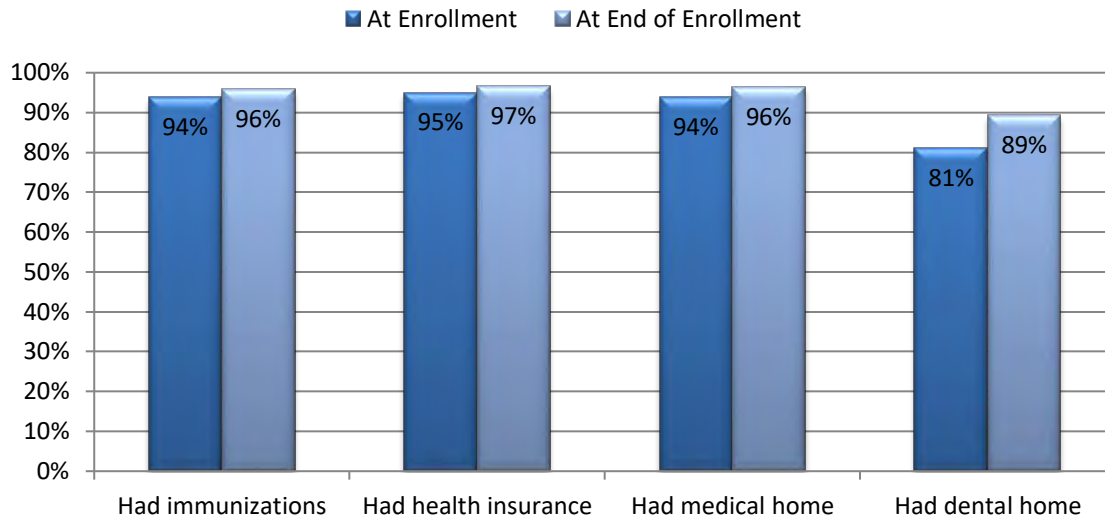


Services to Children and Families:

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 2017–18 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 2018:

- 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 3 percent of infants and toddlers and 6 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 22 percent had medically high risk pregnancies.
- Head Start served about 956,000 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 52,000 families served during the enrollment year experienced homelessness. Of those families, 32 percent found housing during the program year. Approximately 73,000 Head Start families received housing assistance, such as subsidies, utilities, and repairs.
- Approximately 155,000 families, or 16 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 265,000 staff. Parents of current or former Head Start children made up 22 percent of Head Start staff.

- More than 1 million adults volunteered in their local Head Start program. Of these, 739,000 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, 29 percent were proficient in a language other than English.
- Seventy-two 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 Teachers' Degrees

