



Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) Report on Part C Indicator 4 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

2021-2022 Final

December 22, 2022

Submitted to:

Maryland State Department of Education
Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services

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1. Introduction

ICF was contracted by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to administer its annual Part C Indicator 4 Family Survey for 2021-22. Part C Indicator 4 of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) requires states to report on 3 items:

Percentage 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.**
- C. Help their children develop and learn.**

In support of the effort to meet federal reporting requirements for State Performance Plan (SPP) Indicator 4, ICF administered the Early Intervention Services Family Survey of the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program (MITP). Surveys were completed by the parents/guardians of children who received early intervention services through the MITP program in 2021-22. The Survey was launched in mid-October and closed at the end of November.

As in prior years, the 2021-22 Survey consists of items obtained from the National Center for Special Education Accountability Monitoring (NCSEAM) item bank. The Survey includes 22 core questions, two demographic questions, and two questions for parents of children older than three receiving early intervention services through an Extended Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). This report summarizes the data collection and analysis methodology used, provides the statewide and local estimates for Indicators 4a, 4b, and 4c, and presents historical trends.

1.1 Data Collection Methodology

MSDE provided the ICF team with the names and addresses of children between the ages of birth through 4 years who received early intervention services through the MITP program in 2021-22, a total of 11,021 households. A survey packet addressed to the “Parent or Guardian of [name of child]” was prepared for each household. Each survey packet contained:

- A letter of introduction signed by the Assistant State Superintendent of the Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services that explained the purpose of the survey (English and Spanish),
- A copy of the Early Intervention Services Family Survey (English and Spanish), and
- A business reply envelope (addressed to ICF).

Each child was also assigned a unique identifier; this identifier was included on each printed survey. Printed surveys were batched by county and delivered in boxes to the appropriate county’s Local Infants and Toddlers Program (LITP) director. Directors were responsible for distributing the surveys to families via direct mail or in-person visits. Directors also received a Frequently Asked Questions document that contained answers to common questions about the purpose of the survey.

Families also had the opportunity to complete the survey in English or Spanish online. Families could either use the identifier located on their printed survey to login to the survey, or they could complete an alternative version of the survey that did not require them to login. Respondents completing the alternative version of the survey were required to answer several demographic questions that are not included on the primary version of the survey. A bilingual telephone and email help desk were maintained for parents for the duration of the survey.

Four response rate reports were submitted to MSDE on October 31, November 4, November 18, and December 2, 2022. The last surveys to be included in this report arrived at ICF’s office on November 30, 2022.

The value of Indicator 4 is determined by calculating the percentage of respondents that agreed with three statements. Each of the three statements corresponds to a separate Indicator.

Over the past year, early intervention services have helped me and/or my family:

4a: know about my child's and family's rights concerning early intervention services. **(Item 19)**

4b: communicate more effectively with the people who work with my child and family. **(Item 17)**

4c: understand my child's special needs. **(Item 21)**

This report presents findings from the Survey in general, and the Indicators specifically.

1.2 Response Rates

A total of 11,021 surveys were distributed to families. In total 3,632 completed surveys were returned – resulting in an adjusted response rate¹ of 33% (which is an increase of 13 percentage points from last year). The increase in the response rate is most likely due to families continuing to receive services in person again, as they were prior to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions.

Fourteen jurisdictions achieved an adjusted response rate of at least 40%, and 24 jurisdictions (96% of all local jurisdictions) achieved a response rate of at least 20% (the response rate of the previous year). The jurisdictions with the highest adjusted response rates (above 40%) were:

- Garrett County (98%)
- Wicomico County (97%)
- Dorchester County (90%)
- Kent County (77%)
- Calvert County (73%)
- Queen Anne's County (59%)
- Caroline County (49%)
- Caroline County (49%)
- Washington County (49%)
- Worcester County (49%)
- Allegany County (48%)
- Frederick County (46%)
- Prince George's County (45%)
- Howard County (41%)

Response rate data by county is presented in Exhibit 1.1.

Statewide, 3,379 surveys were completed in English (93.0%) and 253 surveys were completed in Spanish (7.0%). In 7 of the 24 jurisdictions, there were no surveys completed in Spanish. Overall, paper surveys were more common than online surveys, but the percentage of online surveys is increasing. A total of 2,258 paper surveys were completed (62.2%), while 1,374 surveys were completed online (37.8%).

A total of 129 surveys (1.2%) were undeliverable because the addresses were out of date or inaccurate. Washington County (n=21; 12.0% undeliverable) had the highest percentage of undeliverable surveys. Other counties with a high percent of undeliverables (defined as more than 4%), were Dorchester (n=4; 7.7%) and Kent (n=2; 6.1%). Notably these percentages are due to the small number of surveys sent.

¹ Adjusted Response Rate = Number of Surveys Completed/(Number of Surveys Mailed – Number of Surveys Returned Undeliverable)

Exhibit 1.1: Response Rate Data for Part C Survey

County	Total Number Mailed	Total Surveys Completed	Surveys Completed in English		Surveys Completed in Spanish		Undeliverable (N)	Adjusted Response Rate (%)
			Paper (N)	Online (N)	Paper (N)	Online (N)		
Statewide	11,021	3,632	2071	1308	187	66	129	33.3%
Allegany	116	55	26	29	-	-	1	47.8%
Anne Arundel	1,212	254	133	109	6	6	22	21.3%
Baltimore City	923	257	215	3	39	-	6	28.0%
Baltimore County	1,524	331	276	28	25	2	15	21.9%
Calvert	162	118	92	25	1	-	-	72.8%
Caroline	75	36	32	2	2	-	1	48.6%
Carroll	243	75	51	24	-	-	-	30.9%
Cecil	230	73	54	18	1	-	2	32.0%
Charles	243	46	2	42	1	1	1	19.0%
Dorchester	52	43	21	22	-	-	4	89.6%
Frederick	451	207	48	151	6	2	4	46.3%
Garrett	53	52	52	-	-	-	-	98.1%
Harford	576	223	139	81	1	2	7	39.2%
Howard	656	268	165	100	3	-	6	41.2%
Kent	33	24	24	-	-	-	2	77.4%
Montgomery	2,104	423	227	143	40	13	15	20.2%
Prince George's	1,547	688	166	438	50	34	13	44.9%
Queen Anne's	65	38	37	1	-	-	-	58.5%
St. Mary's	273	97	95	1	1	-	2	35.8%
Somerset	10	4	3	-	1	-	-	40.0%
Talbot	85	28	23	1	4	-	1	33.3%
Washington	175	76	37	35	3	1	21	49.4%
Wicomico	160	150	147	-	3	-	6	97.4%
Worcester	53	26	2	24	-	-	-	49.1%
Unknown*	-	40	4	31	-	5	-	-

***Note:** "Unknown" responses are from individuals who did not enter their unique identifier when they completed the online survey or where their unique identifier was damaged in the mailing for the paper survey.

2. Demographic Characteristics of Respondents' Children

Respondents were asked to indicate their child's age when first referred for early intervention services. A total of 3,616 respondents answered this question. Of the respondents who responded, 79.2% (n=2,864) indicated that their children had been referred to MITP between birth and age two, while 20.8% (n=752) of families were referred when their child was 2-3 years old.

The survey respondents reported that the majority of children in the sample receiving services were male (64.5%, n=2,324), while 1,277 of the respondent's children receiving services were female (35.5%). Respondents were asked to classify their relationship to the child receiving early intervention services (n=3,599 answered this question). Overwhelmingly, mothers completed the survey (88.1%), followed by fathers (7.8%). Foster parents, grandparents and others accounted for the remaining 4.1% of respondents.

In addition to discussing the demographic characteristics of respondents' children, certain characteristics were analyzed and compared to the population for which the sample is drawn to determine if the sample is representative of the population. Demographic data for the population and most of the sample were obtained from the 2021 MSDE master file of families receiving early intervention services.

For the purpose of this report, a demographic group is classified as being overrepresented in the respondent sample if the percentage of that group in the sample is greater than its percentage in the population by at least 3 percentage points. Similarly, a demographic group is classified as being underrepresented in the sample if the difference between the percentage of that group in the sample is less than its percentage in the population by 3 percentage points or greater. In Exhibits 2.1 and 2.2 differences of 3 percentage points or more are bolded, indicating areas in which the characteristics of children of parents or guardians who responded to the survey are different from the statewide population. If the difference between the sample and the statewide estimate is less than 3 percentage points in either direction, the respondent sample is not significantly different from the statewide population.

2.1 Race/Ethnicity

Exhibit 2.1 summarizes the race and ethnicity of the children of respondents. The two racial groups that account for the largest percentage of the respondent population are parents of White (43.4%) and Black or African American children (24.6%). Regarding race/ethnicity, parents of White children were overrepresented by 4.8 percentage points. Black or African Americans and Hispanic or Latino survey respondents were underrepresented by 5.5 and 4.1 percentage points, respectively.

Exhibit 2.1: Race/Ethnicity: Comparison between Respondent Sample and Statewide Population*

	Population (N=11,021)		Respondents (N=3,632)		Over (Under) Representation
	N	%	N	%	
Race/Ethnicity					
White	4,253	38.6%	1,575	43.4%	4.8
Black or African American	3,317	30.1%	894	24.6%	(5.5)
Hispanic or Latino	2,082	18.9%	538	14.8%	(4.1)
Multi-racial	776	7.0%	272	7.5%	0.5
Asian	561	5.1%	146	4.0%	(1.0)
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	11	0.1%	2	0.1%	-
American Indian/Alaskan Native	20	0.2%	5	0.1%	(0.1)
Unknown*	-	-	35	1.0%	-

*Note: "Unknown" responses are from individuals who did not enter their unique identifier when they completed the online survey and did not answer the question related to race/ethnicity.

2.2 Primary Exceptionality/Disability

Exhibit 2.2 summarizes the exceptionalities/disabilities of the children of survey respondents. According to statewide estimates, the most common exceptionality evident in the MITP population is a developmental delay of at least 25%, with 73.6% of the population reporting this disability. The second most common exceptionality or disability statewide is a physical or mental condition with likely developmental delay (19.9% of the population). The third category of exceptionalities, atypical development or behavior, constitutes 6.5% of the population. Parents of children who have at least 25% Development Delay (DD) were underrepresented by almost 6 percentage points, which accounted for the largest percentage of responses. The second most common exceptionality or disability, physical or mental condition with likely developmental delay was slightly overrepresented, and the less common atypical development or behavior was slightly underrepresented.

Exhibit 2.2: Exceptionalities/Disabilities: Comparison between Respondent Sample and Statewide Estimate

	Population (N=11,021)		Respondents (N=3,632)		Over (Under) Representation
	N	%†	N	%†	
At Least 25% Developmental Delay (DD)	8,106	73.6%	2,460	67.7%	(5.8)
Diagnosed Physical or Mental Condition with High Probability of Developmental Delay (DD)	2,197	19.9%	792	21.8%	1.9
Atypical Development or Behavior (AD/B)	717	6.5%	175	4.8%	(1.7)

Note: †Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

2.3 Jurisdiction

While in most jurisdictions the percentage of survey respondents were representative of the number of active and eligible students, there are three counties where respondents underrepresented the sample by more than 3%: Anne Arundel, Baltimore County, and Montgomery County, which is similar to previous years. This year, Prince George's County's responses were overrepresented by 5 percentage points.

Exhibit 2.3: 2021-22 Survey Representativeness by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction*	Active and Eligible Children		Survey Responses		Over or Under-Representation
	n**	% of Total	n	% of Total	% pts
Prince George's	1,547	14%	688	19%	5%
Wicomico	160	1%	150	4%	3%
Calvert	162	1%	118	3%	2%
Frederick	451	4%	207	6%	2%
Howard	656	6%	268	7%	1%
Garrett	53	0%	52	1%	1%
Harford	576	5%	223	6%	1%
Dorchester	52	0%	43	1%	1%
Washington	175	2%	76	2%	1%
Allegany	116	1%	55	2%	0%
Queen Anne's	65	1%	38	1%	0%
Kent	33	0%	24	1%	0%
Caroline	75	1%	36	1%	0%
Worcester	53	0%	26	1%	0%
Saint Mary's	273	2%	97	3%	0%
Somerset	10	0%	4	0%	0%
Talbot	85	1%	28	1%	0%
Cecil	230	2%	73	2%	0%
Carroll	243	2%	75	2%	0%
Charles	243	2%	46	1%	(1%)
Baltimore City	923	8%	257	7%	(1%)
Anne Arundel	1,212	11%	254	7%	(4%)
Baltimore County	1,524	14%	331	9%	(5%)
Montgomery	2,104	19%	423	12%	(7%)

Note: **"Unknown" responses are not included in this chart.

Note: **Counties have been sorted in descending order based on representativeness.

3. OSEP Indicator 4 Estimates

This section presents survey results for OSEP Indicator 4, the percentage of families who report that early intervention services have helped them know their rights; effectively communicate their children’s needs, and help their children develop and learn. Data are reported in relation to the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) targets established in Maryland’s State Performance Plan (SPP), as well as by respondent demographics and the Extended IFSP option.

Exhibit 3.1 displays 2021-22 results for Indicators 4a, 4b, and 4c, shown as the percentage of families who agreed, strongly agreed, or very strongly agreed to survey items 19, 17, and 21, respectively. As seen in the table, almost all respondents agreed with the indicator items. The percentages are above the targets established in Maryland’s SPP for this year.

Exhibit 3.1: 2021-22 Actual and Target Data for Indicator 4

Indicator		Measurement	Actual	Target
4a	Know their rights	# of families who agree, strongly, agree or very strongly agree to Q19 (early intervention services have helped me or my family know about my child’s and family’s rights) divided by the # of families who answered Q19	96.48% (=3,453/3,579)	95.0%
4b	Effectively communicate their children’s needs	# of families who agree, strongly, agree or very strongly agree to Q17 (early intervention services have helped me or my family communicate more effectively with the people who work with my child and family) divided by the # of families who answered Q17	96.48% (=3,403/3,527)	95.0%
4c	Help their children develop and learn	# of families who agree, strongly, agree or very strongly agree to Q21 (early intervention services have helped me or my family understand my child’s special needs) divided by the # of families who answered Q21	97.19% (=3,392/3,490)	95.0%

Exhibit 3.2 displays the 2021-22 results for Indicator 4a (early intervention services have helped me or my family know about my child's and family's rights) by local jurisdiction and statewide. Jurisdictions with 100% agreement include Caroline, Dorchester, Garrett, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, Wicomico, and Worcester counties.

Exhibit 3.2: 2021-22 Estimates for Part C Indicator 4a

Jurisdiction	% Agreement	N*	Indicator 4a Std. error	Lower CI**	Upper CI**
Statewide	96.48%	3,579	0.00	96.47%	96.49%
Allegany	98.15%	54	0.01	97.36%	98.94%
Anne Arundel	95.22%	251	0.00	95.04%	95.40%
Baltimore City	88.63%	255	0.00	88.38%	88.88%
Baltimore County	96.31%	325	0.00	96.19%	96.43%
Calvert	99.15%	117	0.00	98.89%	99.40%
Caroline	100.00%	35	0.01	98.80%	100.00%
Carroll	91.67%	72	0.01	90.84%	92.50%
Cecil	95.89%	73	0.01	95.24%	96.55%
Charles	93.48%	46	0.01	92.21%	94.74%
Dorchester	100.00%	41	0.01	99.04%	100.00%
Frederick	97.01%	201	0.00	96.83%	97.20%
Garrett	100.00%	52	0.01	99.32%	100.00%
Harford	98.19%	221	0.00	98.05%	98.33%
Howard	98.11%	264	0.00	97.99%	98.22%
Kent	100.00%	24	0.02	97.95%	100.00%
Montgomery	95.35%	409	0.00	95.25%	95.46%
Prince George's	96.93%	684	0.00	96.88%	96.98%
Queen Anne's	100.00%	38	0.01	98.93%	100.00%
Saint Mary's	97.89%	95	0.00	97.49%	98.30%
Somerset	100.00%	4	0.21	79.07%	100.00%
Talbot	100.00%	28	0.02	98.35%	100.00%
Washington	98.65%	74	0.01	98.15%	99.15%
Wicomico	100.00%	150	0.00	99.86%	100.00%
Worcester	100.00%	26	0.02	98.17%	100.00%

Note: *The Ns will not add up to the statewide total, due to responses from families that did not indicate their county but responded to the question.

Note: **Confidence intervals are calculated at a 95% Confidence Level

Exhibit 3.3 displays 2021-22 results for Indicator 4b (early intervention services have helped me or my family communicate more effectively with the people who work with my child and family) by local jurisdiction and statewide. Jurisdictions with 100% agreement include Caroline, Garrett, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, and Wicomico counties.

Exhibit 3.3: 2021-22 Estimates for Part C Indicator 4b

Jurisdiction	% Agreement	N*	Indicator 4b Std. error	Lower CI**	Upper CI**
Statewide	96.48%	3,527	0.00	96.47%	96.49%
Allegany	96.30%	54	0.01	95.39%	97.20%
Anne Arundel	97.54%	244	0.00	97.40%	97.68%
Baltimore City	90.20%	255	0.00	89.96%	90.43%
Baltimore County	95.00%	320	0.00	94.86%	95.14%
Calvert	99.15%	118	0.00	98.90%	99.40%
Caroline	100.00%	33	0.01	98.69%	100.00%
Carroll	92.75%	69	0.01	91.92%	93.58%
Cecil	95.89%	73	0.01	95.24%	96.55%
Charles	97.83%	46	0.01	96.83%	98.82%
Dorchester	97.62%	42	0.01	96.49%	98.75%
Frederick	98.01%	201	0.00	97.85%	98.17%
Garrett	100.00%	51	0.01	99.30%	100.00%
Harford	99.09%	219	0.00	98.97%	99.20%
Howard	97.67%	258	0.00	97.54%	97.80%
Kent	100.00%	24	0.02	97.95%	100.00%
Montgomery	95.00%	400	0.00	94.89%	95.11%
Prince George's	96.58%	673	0.00	96.53%	96.64%
Queen Anne's	100.00%	38	0.01	98.93%	100.00%
Saint Mary's	97.85%	93	0.00	97.44%	98.26%
Somerset	100.00%	4	0.21	79.07%	100.00%
Talbot	100.00%	27	0.02	98.26%	100.00%
Washington	95.83%	72	0.01	95.17%	96.50%
Wicomico	100.00%	149	0.00	99.85%	100.00%
Worcester	96.15%	26	0.02	93.93%	98.38%

Note: *The Ns will not add up to the statewide total, due to responses from families that did not indicate their county but responded to the question.

Note: **Confidence intervals are calculated at a 95% Confidence Level

Exhibit 3.4 displays 2021-22 results for Indicator 4c (early intervention services have helped me or my family understand my child's special needs) by local jurisdiction and statewide. Jurisdictions with 100% agreement include Caroline, Dorchester, Garrett, Queen Anne's, Somerset, and Talbot counties.

Exhibit 3.4: 2021-22 Estimates for Part C Indicator 4c

Jurisdiction	% Agreement	N*	Indicator 4c Std. error	Lower CI**	Upper CI**
Statewide	97.19%	3,490	0.00	97.18%	97.20%
Allegany	98.15%	54	0.01	97.36%	98.94%
Anne Arundel	98.35%	243	0.00	98.23%	98.48%
Baltimore City	93.70%	254	0.00	93.50%	93.90%
Baltimore County	95.98%	323	0.00	95.85%	96.10%
Calvert	98.25%	114	0.00	97.94%	98.55%
Caroline	100.00%	34	0.01	98.75%	100.00%
Carroll	95.59%	68	0.01	94.86%	96.31%
Cecil	97.18%	71	0.01	96.57%	97.80%
Charles	97.83%	46	0.01	96.83%	98.82%
Dorchester	100.00%	42	0.01	99.07%	100.00%
Frederick	98.46%	195	0.00	98.31%	98.62%
Garrett	100.00%	50	0.01	99.28%	100.00%
Harford	98.61%	216	0.00	98.48%	98.74%
Howard	98.46%	260	0.00	98.35%	98.57%
Kent	95.83%	24	0.02	93.35%	98.32%
Montgomery	96.02%	402	0.00	95.92%	96.12%
Prince George's	96.97%	659	0.00	96.91%	97.02%
Queen Anne's	100.00%	36	0.01	98.85%	100.00%
Saint Mary's	97.92%	96	0.00	97.52%	98.31%
Somerset	100.00%	4	0.21	79.07%	100.00%
Talbot	100.00%	27	0.02	98.26%	100.00%
Washington	95.89%	73	0.01	95.24%	96.55%
Wicomico	98.52%	135	0.00	98.28%	98.76%
Worcester	96.15%	26	0.02	93.93%	98.38%

Note: *The Ns will not add up to the statewide total, due to responses from families that did not indicate their county but responded to the question.

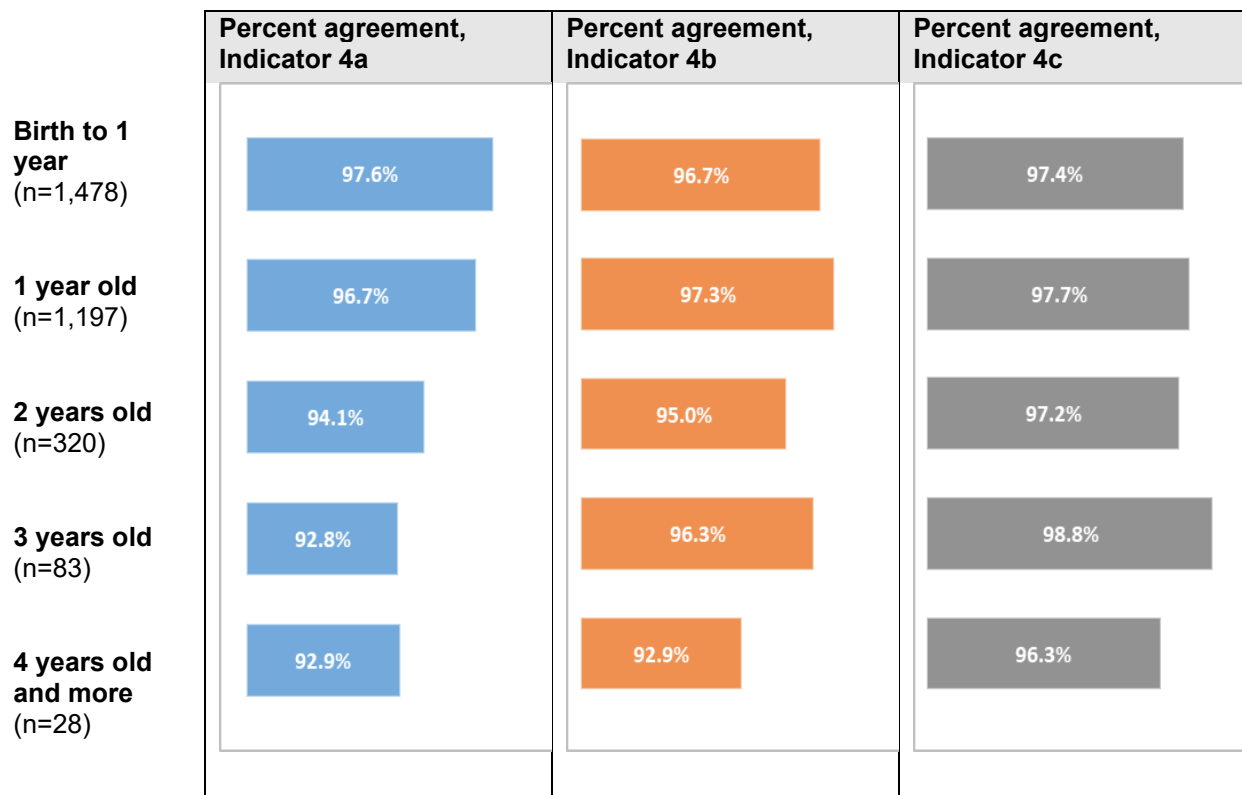
Note: **Confidence intervals are calculated at a 95% Confidence Level

4. OSEP Indicator 4 Estimates by Demographic Characteristics

The figures on the following pages show the differences in Indicator 4 results across key demographics: age of child at time of survey response and at time of referral, gender of child, survey language, length of time in program, extended IFSP option, race/ethnicity of families, respondent relationship to child, and eligibility determination.

Age of Child at Time of Survey Response: In this year’s survey, families of children birth to 1 year old and 1 year old tend to show the highest levels of agreement across all indicators (averaging 97.2%), followed by those with children 3 years old (96.0%). The lowest levels of agreement tend to be with families of children aged 4 years old or more (averaging 94.0% percent) across all indicators.

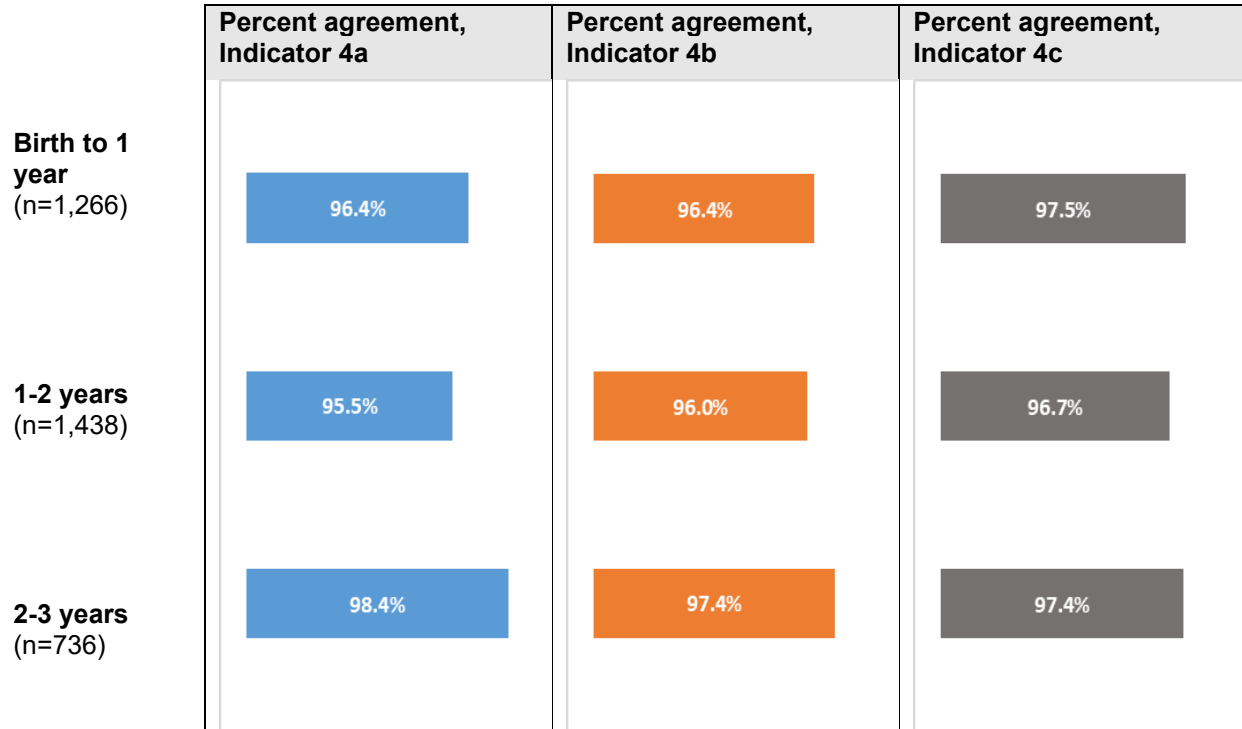
Exhibit 4.1: FFY 2021 Indicator 4 Results by Age of Child at Time of Survey Response



Note: Bar charts display the % of families who agreed, strongly agreed, or very strongly agreed with items 19, 17, and 21, respectively. The “n” represents the average number of respondents in each category.

Age of Child at Referral: There were no discernable differences in agreement levels (around 1 percentage point) between families who were referred birth to one year, 1-2 years, or 2-3 years of age. However, the percentage of agreement on all three indicators was highest overall for families referred to early intervention services 2-3 years of age.

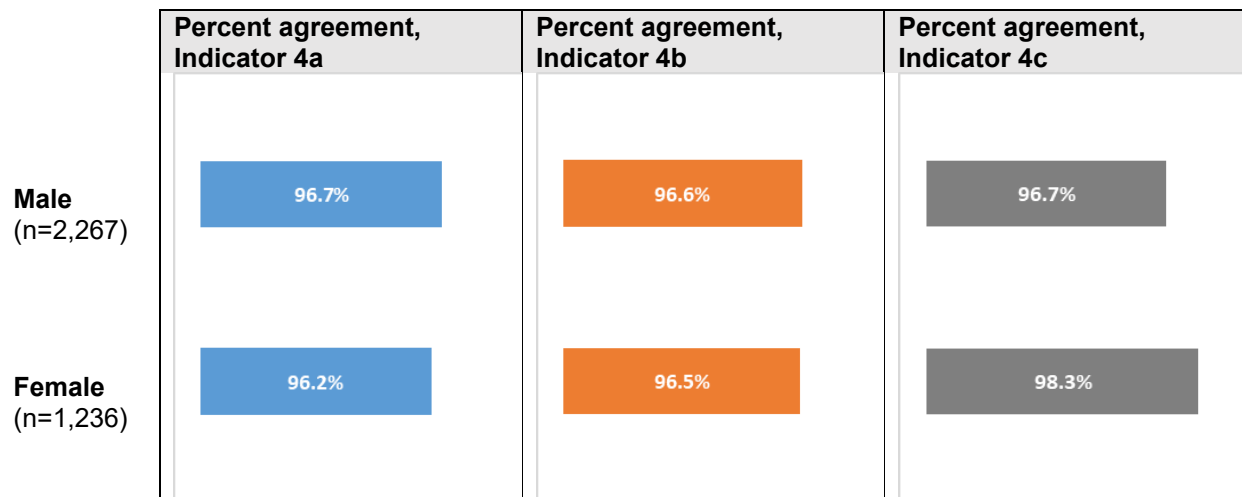
Exhibit 4.2: FFY 2021 Indicator 4 Results by Age of Child at Referral



Note: Bar charts display the % of families who agreed, strongly agreed, or very strongly agreed with items 19, 17, and 21, respectively. The “n” represents the average number of respondents across each category.

Gender of Child: There were no discernable differences in agreement levels (0.3 percentage points) between families of male children and families of female children receiving early intervention services. The greatest difference between male and female homes was related to Indicator 4c (1.6 percentage points).

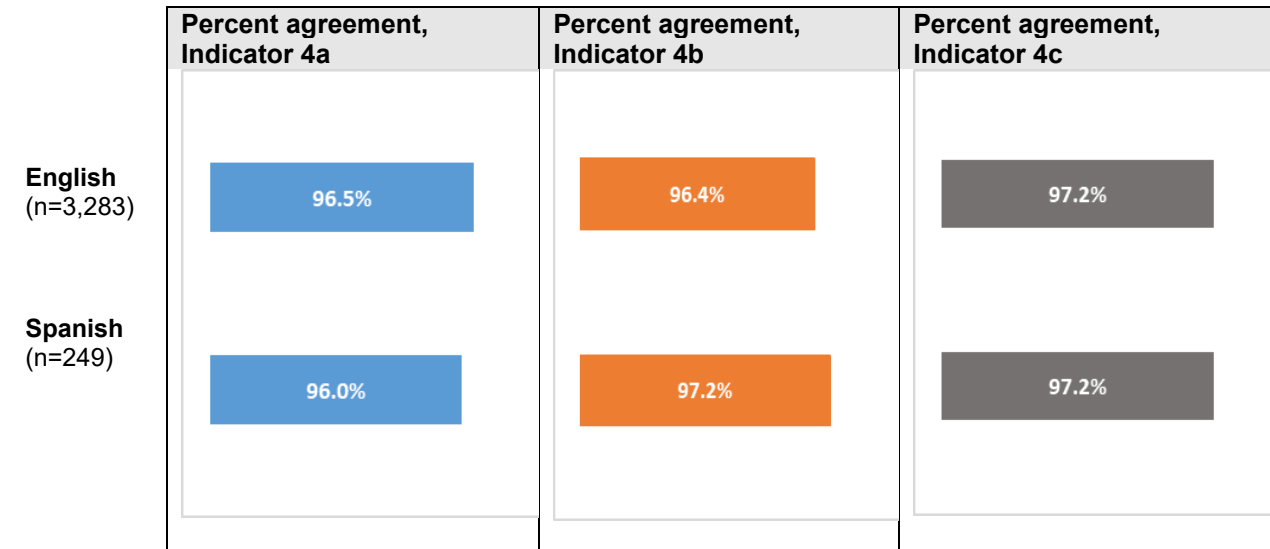
Exhibit 4.3: FFY 2021 Indicator 4 Results by Gender of Child



Note: Bar charts display the % of families who agreed, strongly agreed, or very strongly agreed with items 19, 17, and 21, respectively. The “n” represents the average number of respondents across each category.

Survey Language: There were no discernable differences between English and Spanish homes in their agreement over all three indicators. The greatest difference between English and Spanish homes was related to Indicator 4b (0.8 percentage points).

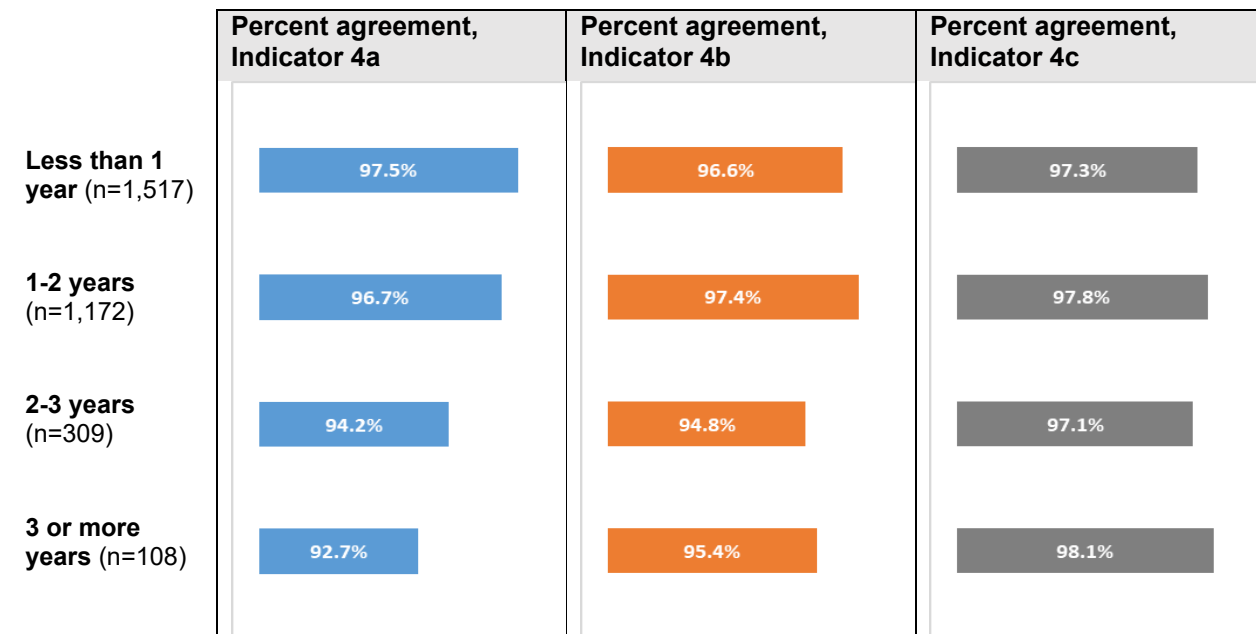
Exhibit 4.4: FFY 2021 Indicator 4 Results by Survey Language



Note: Bar charts display the % of families who agreed, strongly agreed, or very strongly agreed with items 19, 17, and 21, respectively. The “n” represents the average number of respondents across each category.

Length of Time in Part C. Families in the program less than 1 year and 1-2 years had the highest agreement levels across all indicators (around 97%). Families in the program 2-3 years of age and 3 or more years had the lowest agreement levels across all indicators (95.4%). The greatest difference in agreement levels is 4.8 percentage points for Indicator 4a, with the highest agreement for families in the program less than 1 year (97.5%) and lowest agreement levels for families in the program 3 or more years (92.7%).

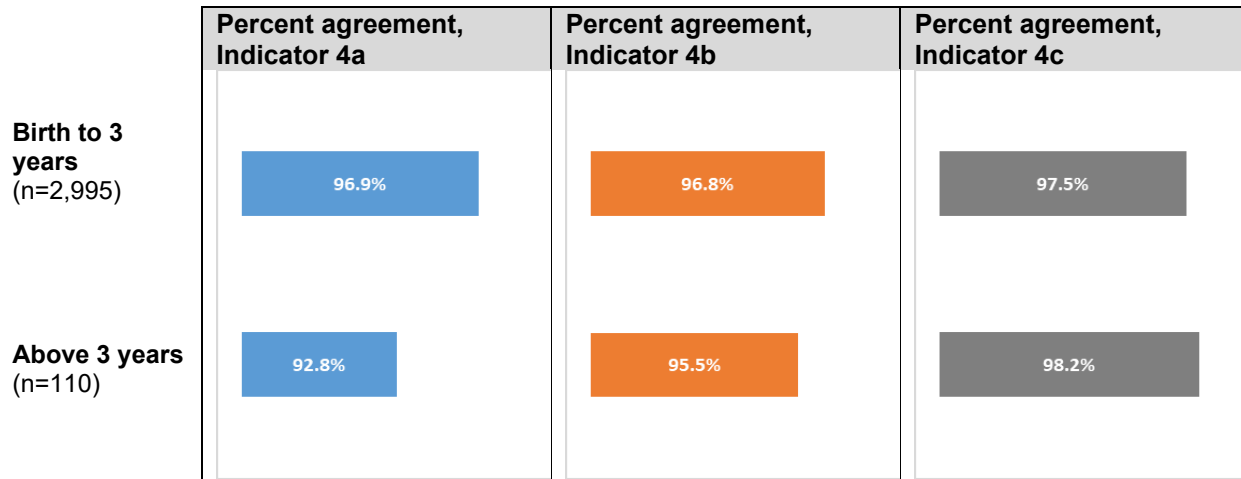
Exhibit 4.5: FFY 2021 Indicator 4 Results by Length of Time in Part C



Note: Bar charts display the % of families who agreed, strongly agreed, or very strongly agreed with items 19, 17, and 21, respectively. The “n” represents the average number of respondents across each category.

Extended IFSP Option: The following exhibit presents differences in Indicator 4 results for families of children currently up to three years of age, compared to families of children above 3 years old. Families with children ages three and four years are eligible to receive services through the Extended IFSP option. The only discernable differences in agreement levels (4.1 percentage points) were between families with children birth to 3 years and those above 3 years old for Indicator 4a.

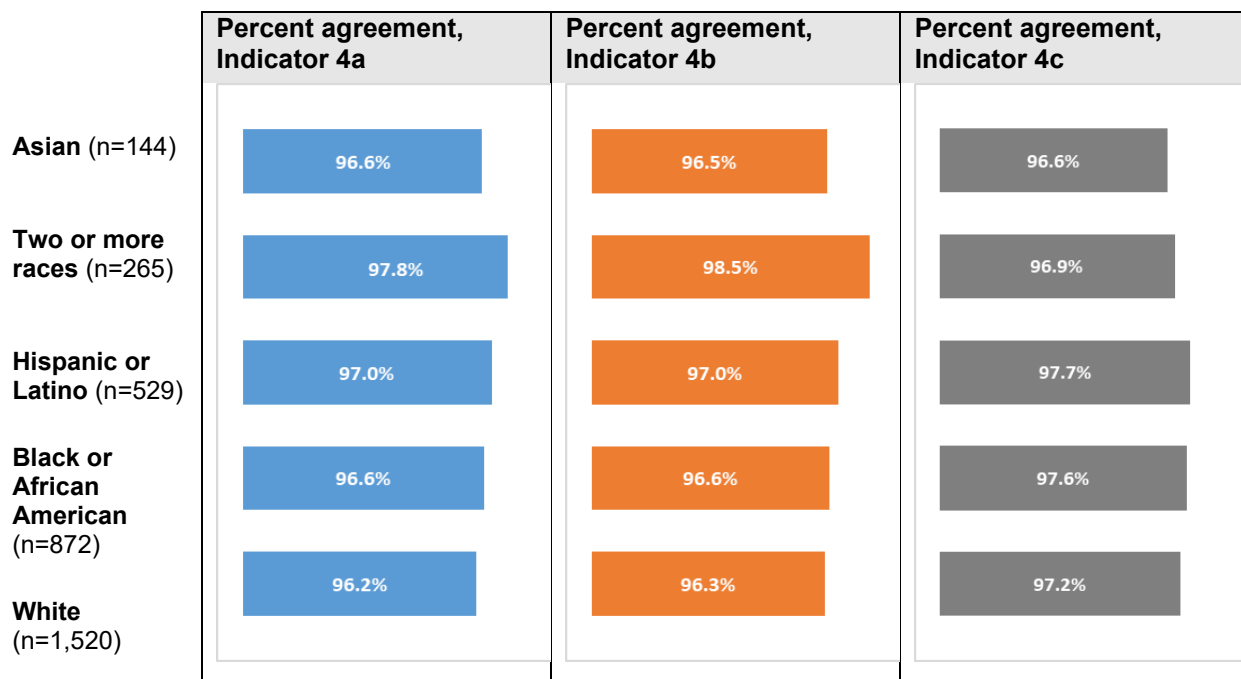
Exhibit 4.6: FFY 2021 Indicator 4 Results by Extended IFSP Option



Note: Bar charts display the % of families who agreed, strongly agreed, or very strongly agreed with items 19, 17, and 21, respectively. The “n” represents the average number of respondents across each category.

Race/Ethnicity of Families Responding: Families of two or more races and Hispanic or Latino families had the highest level of agreement across all three indicators (97.7% and 97.2% respectively). There were very small differences in levels of agreement (0.3 to 0.4 percentage points) for all three indicators between the two largest groups, Black and White families. Participants of Asian, White and Black families tended to agree across all Indicators, with less than a 1 percentage point difference.

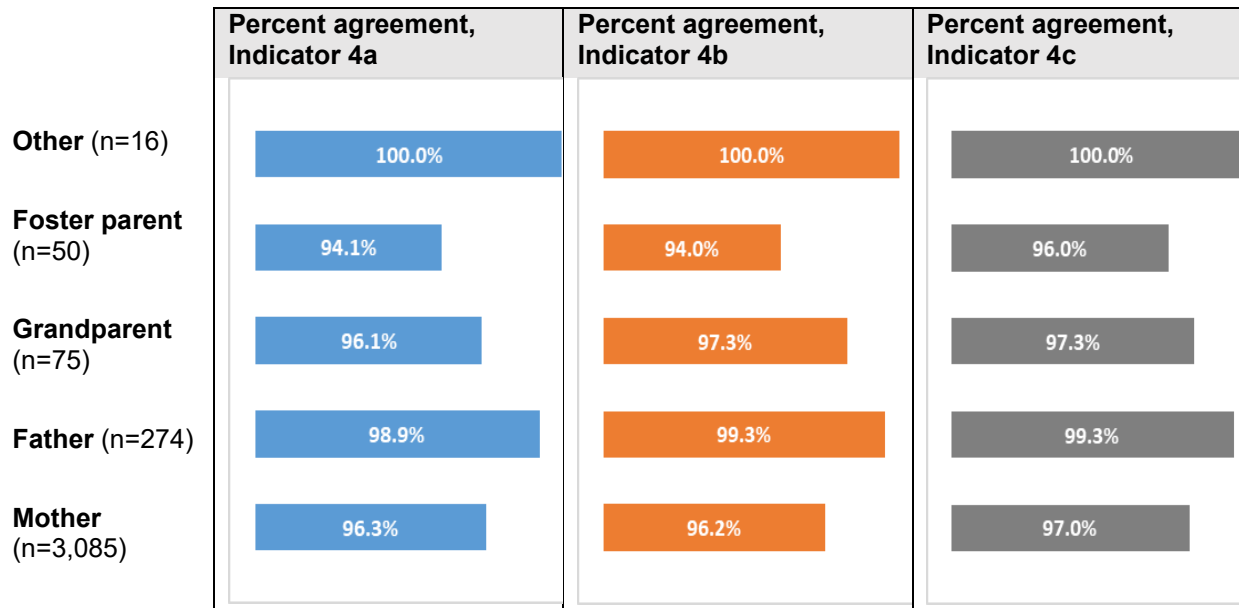
Exhibit 4.7: FFY 2021 Indicator 4 Results by Race/Ethnicity of Families Responding



Note: Bar charts display the % of families who agreed, strongly agreed, or very strongly agreed with items 19, 17, and 21, respectively. The “n” represents the average number of respondents across each category.

Relationship of Respondent to the Child: There was little difference across indicators for any of the relationship options. Those that selected “Other” on the survey had the highest level of agreement across all indicators (100%), this could include guardians, aunts, uncles, etc. Fathers has the next highest overall agreement across all indicators (99.2%). Overall, those who specified Foster Parent, had the lowest levels of agreement across all indicators (94.7%). In the largest group of respondents, Mothers, there was less than 0.7 percentage point difference in agreement across all indicators. Grandparents had just over a 1 percentage point difference in agreement across all indicators.

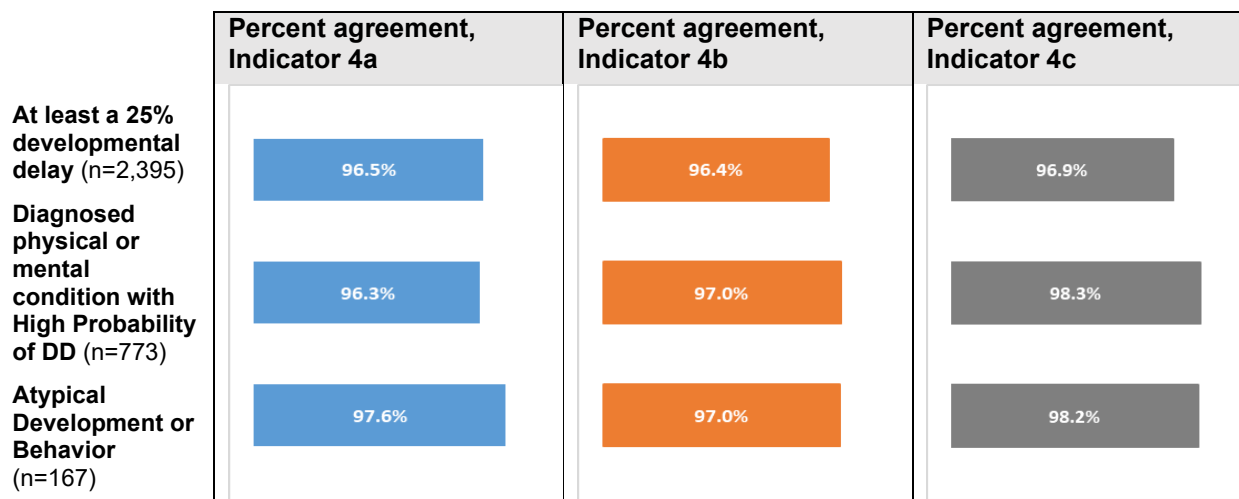
Exhibit 4.8: FFY 2021 Indicator 4 Results by Relationship of Respondent to the Child



Note: Bar charts display the % of families who agreed, strongly agreed, or very strongly agreed with items 19, 17, and 21, respectively. The “n” represents the average number of respondents across each category.

Eligibility Category: When comparing the different eligibility determinations, parents of students diagnosed with Atypical Development or Behavior tended to rate Indicator 4a the highest (97.6%). Parents of students diagnosed with a physical or mental condition rated Indicators 4c the highest overall (98.3%). Parents of students with at least a 25% development disability had the lowest level of agreements for Indicators 4b and 4c. The greatest difference among eligibility determinations (1.4 percentage points) was between the responses for Indicator 4c.

Exhibit 4.9: FFY 2021 Indicator 4 Results by Eligibility Determination



Note: Bar charts display the % of families who agreed, strongly agreed, or very strongly agreed with items 19, 17, and 21, respectively. The “n” represents the average number of respondents across each category.

5. Summary of Responses to All Survey Items

The survey asked respondents to state the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with 24 statements about the early intervention services their child/children receive. Exhibit 5.1 shows that families are generally satisfied with the services they received from their LITPs. Most parents agreed with each item on the survey, and there were 21 items where at least 95% of respondents agreed. The statement with the highest percentage of agreement (97.9%) was item 20: *“Over the past year, early intervention services have helped me and/or my family do things with and for my child that are good for my child’s development.”*

Statements with the lowest percentage of agreement were less specific and related to activities, services, and family needs. The statement with the lowest percentage of agreement (92.8%) was item 3: *“Over the past year, early intervention services have helped me and/or my family participate in typical activities for children and families in my community.”*

Exhibit 5.1: Summary of Responses to Survey Items

Over the past year, early intervention services have helped me and/or my family:	n	Very Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Very Strongly Agree	TOTAL AGREE
3. participate in typical activities for children and families in my community.	3,494	1.2%	0.5%	5.5%	31.3%	19.1%	42.4%	92.8%
4. know about services in the community.	3,566	1.0%	0.4%	4.0%	28.0%	23.2%	43.4%	94.6%
5. know where to go for support to meet my child’s needs.	3,575	0.8%	0.4%	2.7%	27.0%	22.6%	46.6%	96.1%
6. know where to go for support to meet my family’s needs.	3,536	0.8%	0.4%	4.2%	29.6%	22.0%	43.0%	94.6%
7. get the services that my child and family need.	3,582	0.8%	0.3%	2.4%	23.9%	22.3%	50.4%	96.5%
8. feel more confident in my skills as a parent.	3,596	0.9%	0.5%	1.9%	22.9%	22.7%	51.1%	96.7%
9. make changes in family routines that will benefit my child with special needs.	3,492	0.7%	0.3%	2.4%	23.8%	22.7%	50.1%	96.6%
10. be more effective in managing my child’s behavior.	3,504	0.8%	0.3%	3.3%	29.5%	21.8%	44.4%	95.7%
11. do activities that are good for my child even in times of stress.	3,546	0.7%	0.3%	3.2%	26.8%	22.9%	46.1%	95.8%
12. feel that I can get the services and supports that my child and family need.	3,576	0.9%	0.2%	2.0%	24.6%	22.0%	50.2%	96.9%
13. understand how the early intervention system works.	3,605	0.8%	0.3%	1.6%	24.9%	22.2%	50.2%	97.3%
14. be able to evaluate how much progress my child is making.	3,598	0.8%	0.3%	1.9%	21.8%	22.5%	52.8%	97.1%
15. feel that my child will be accepted and welcomed in the community.	3,508	0.9%	0.2%	1.9%	25.8%	21.0%	50.2%	97.0%
16. feel that my family will be accepted and welcomed in the community.	3,479	0.9%	0.1%	2.3%	26.5%	20.4%	49.8%	96.7%

Over the past year, early intervention services have helped me and/or my family:	n	Very Strongly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Very Strongly Agree	TOTAL AGREE
17. communicate more effectively with the people who work with my child and family. (4b)	3,527	0.8%	0.2%	2.6%	24.3%	22.3%	49.8%	96.5%
18. understand the roles of the people who work with my child and family.	3,546	0.7%	0.3%	2.0%	24.6%	22.8%	49.6%	97.1%
19. know about my child's and family's rights concerning early intervention services. (4a)	3,579	0.8%	0.3%	2.4%	25.4%	21.2%	49.9%	96.5%
20. do things with and for my child that are good for my child's development.	3,597	0.7%	0.0%	1.4%	18.6%	21.0%	58.2%	97.9%
21. understand my child's special needs. (4c)	3,490	0.8%	0.3%	1.7%	23.1%	21.9%	52.2%	97.2%
22. feel that my efforts are helping my child.	3,602	0.9%	0.1%	1.4%	20.3%	20.6%	56.8%	97.7%
23. figure out solutions to problems as they come up.	3,561	0.8%	0.1%	1.7%	23.9%	22.9%	50.5%	97.4%
24. feel that I can handle the challenges of parenting a child with special needs.	3,426	0.9%	0.4%	2.3%	24.5%	22.7%	48.4%	95.5%
Parents completed the following questions if their child turned 3 years old before July 1, 2021 and their family continued to receive early intervention services through an Extended Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).								
25. understand my options in order to make the best choice for my child and family to continue services through an extended IFSP or move to services through an IEP*	1,165	1.4%	0.2%	2.1%	21.7%	18.7%	55.9%	96.3%
26. support my child to be ready for school by assisting me to teach my child pre-reading activities (such as naming pictures) and pre-math activities (such as sorting household items) *	1,131	1.2%	0.4%	3.4%	23.0%	20.2%	51.8%	95.0%

*Note: State-provided demographic data were used to exclude inappropriate respondents (families whose child was not age three by the July 1st, 2021, cut-off date).

6. Historical Trends

The following section presents data comparing overall survey response rates and OSEP Indicator 4 results from FFY 2005 to FFY 2021.

Response Rate and Sample Frame

Between FFY 2005-08, an average 6,699 surveys were distributed annually. During the subsequent four years, the average number of surveys increased to 8,598. From FFY 2013-15, the average number of surveys distributed increased to 9,457. One reason for the observed growth in survey distribution is Maryland's implementation of the Extended IFSP Option in FFY 2009, a programmatic change that increased the overall population of eligible children in the state. From FFY 2016-2018, the average number of surveys distributed again increased to 10,703. In FFY 2019, there was a slight dip to 9,769 and in FFY 2020 sample size increased to 10,881. COVID protocols in 2019 may have influenced parents to make different educational decisions for their child(ren), but we see this reverting to previous levels in FFY 2020. For FFY 2021 the sample size returned to 2018 levels with 11,021.

From 2005-08, the average response rate was 23.6%. In the following four years, 2009-12, the response rate grew to 45.0%. From 2013 to the present, the average response rate increased more gradually (and at times dipped) –with a high level of 46.0% in 2016-17. The 2019-20 response rate of 17.3% (a sharp decrease of 22.8 percentage points from the previous year) was most likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the difference in the process for distribution and collection of surveys and how counties have had to adjust when offering services. The 2020-21 year there was a 2.4 percentage point increase, which is most likely due to relaxing COVID restrictions and parents receiving more services similar to the past. In the current 2021-22 year we saw an even more significant increase of 13.6 percentage points.

Exhibit 6.1: Survey Response Rate by Federal Fiscal Year

Federal Fiscal Year	Surveys Sent	Surveys Completed	Adjusted Response Rate*
2005	6,508	1,275	19.6%
2006	6,395	1,476	23.1%
2007	7,078	1,570	22.2%
2008	6,813	2,017	29.6%
2009	8,109	3,384	41.7%
2010	9,036	3,589	39.7%
2011	8,650	4,042	46.7%
2012	8,862	3,989	45.0%
2013	9,330	4,029	43.2%
2014	9,444	4,443	47.0%
2015	9,599	4,284	46.0%
2016	10,455	4,698	46.0%
2017	10,625	3,803	36.2%
2018	11,029	4,339	40.1%
2019	9,769	1,650	17.3%
2020	10,881	2,118	19.7%
2021	11,021	3,632	33.3%

* Adjusted Response Rate = # of Surveys Completed / (# of Surveys Mailed – # of Surveys Returned Undeliverable)

OSEP Indicator 4 Graphs

The figures below show the target and actual percentage agreement with Indicators 4a, 4b, and 4c. From 2010-21, the actual percentage agreement for all three indicators have remained above the annual targets established in Maryland's SPP, which have increased over time. For Indicator 4a the value of the indicator is 1.5 percentage points above the state target in 2021-22, for Indicator 4b it is 1.5 percentage points above this year's state target, while for 4c, the actual percentage agreement value is 2.2 percentage points higher than the current target.

