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

2019-2020 FINAL

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Submitted to:

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

Submitted by:

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Table of Contents

1. Introduction

ICF was contracted by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to administer its annual Part C Indicator 4 Family Survey for 2019-20. 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 2019-20. The Survey was launched in mid-September and closed at the end of November.

As in prior years, the 2019-20 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 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 2019-20; a total of 9,769 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 Special Education/Early Intervention 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. It was decided that the directors were still responsible for distributing the surveys to families during the COVID-19 pandemic via direct mail. In previous years, providers were able to hand deliver surveys to parents during their Infants and Toddlers meetings with families. 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.

One response rate report was submitted to MSDE on November 9, 2020. It was determined that keeping the survey open until the end of the month would allow for more families to participate. The last surveys to be included in this report arrived at ICF's office on November 30, 2020.

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 9,769 surveys were distributed to families. In total 1,650 completed surveys were returned – resulting in an adjusted response rate[1] of 17.3% (which is down 22.8 percentage points from last year). The reduced response rate is most likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic, which set restrictions on how jurisdictions could provide services to families, in addition to the responsibilities of families who are simultaneously assisting their children with online learning.

Six jurisdictions achieved an adjusted response rate of at least 35%, and 12 jurisdictions (50% of all local jurisdictions) achieved a response rate of at least 20%. The jurisdictions with the highest adjusted response rates (above 35%) were:

- Wicomico County (89.5%)
- Garrett County (81.4%)
- Dorchester County (63.6%)
- Calvert County (45.1%)
- Worcester County (39.6%)
- Frederick County (39.2%)

Response rate data by county is presented in Exhibit 1.1. Cecil County achieved the lowest response rate this year, 1.6%, with 3 returned surveys.

Statewide, 1,580 surveys were completed in English (95.8%) and 70 surveys were completed in Spanish (4.2%). In 11 of the 24 jurisdictions, there were no surveys completed in Spanish. Paper surveys were more common than online surveys. Overall, 1,188 paper surveys were completed (72.0% of all surveys), while 462 surveys were completed online.

A total of 213 surveys (2.2%) were undeliverable because the addresses were out of date or inaccurate. The jurisdictions with the highest percentage of undeliverable surveys (more than 3%) were:

- Anne Arundel County (n=38; 3.6% undeliverable)
- Cecil County (n=6; 3.2% undeliverable)

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[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	**9,769**	**1,650**	**1,124**	**456**	**64**	**6**	**213**	**17.3%**
Allegany	102	20	-	20	-	-	3	20.2%
Anne Arundel	1,055	109	95	13	1	-	38	10.7%
Baltimore City	1,036	246	227	1	18	-	16	24.1%
Baltimore County	1,343	136	116	15	5	-	34	10.4%
Calvert	175	79	13	66	-	-	-	45.1%
Caroline	51	11	10	-	1	-	-	21.6%
Carroll	202	25	23	2	-	-	2	12.5%
Cecil	188	3	2	1	-	-	6	1.6%
Charles	202	24	-	24	-	-	3	12.1%
Dorchester	45	28	-	27	1	-	1	63.6%
Frederick	353	136	-	134	-	2	6	39.2%
Garrett	43	35	35	-	-	-	-	81.4%
Harford	515	103	64	38	1	-	9	20.4%
Howard	488	65	49	14	2	-	11	13.6%
Kent	33	4	3	-	1	-	-	12.1%
Montgomery	1,916	240	206	19	15	-	41	12.8%
Prince George's	1,256	124	75	33	15	1	37	10.2%
Queen Anne's	92	11	10	1	-	-	1	12.1%
St. Mary's	212	37	37	-	-	-	3	17.7%
Somerset	23	5	4	-	1	-	-	21.7%
Talbot	65	18	15	-	3	-	-	27.7%
Washington	193	35	21	14	-	-	2	18.3%
Wicomico	133	119	119	-	-	-	-	89.5%
Worcester	48	19	-	19	-	-	-	39.6%
Unknown*	-	18	-	15	-	3		-

*Note: "Unknown" responses are from individuals who did not enter their unique identifier when they completed the online 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 1,627 respondents answered this question. Of the respondents who answered this question, 79.2% (n=1,289) indicated that their children had been referred to MITP between birth and age two, while 20.8% (n=338) of families were referred when their child was 2-3 years old.

The survey respondents reported that the majority of children in the sample that were receiving services were male (62.3%, n=1,015), while 615 of the respondent's children receiving services were female (37.7%). Respondents were asked to classify their relationship to the child receiving early intervention services (n=1,645). Overwhelmingly, mothers completed the survey (86.6%), followed by fathers (8.3%). Foster parents, grandparents and others accounted for the remaining 5.1% 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 2019 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 more. 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 (51.1%) and Black or African American children (26.4%). With regard to race/ethnicity, parents of White children were overrepresented by 10.72 percentage points. Black or African Americans and Hispanic or Latina survey respondents were underrepresented by 3.75 and 6.68 percentage points, respectively.

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

	Population (N=11,029)		Respondents (N=4,339)		Over (Under) Representation
	N	**%**	**N**	**%**	
Race/Ethnicity					
White	3,944	40.4%	843	51.1%	10.72
Black or African American	2,942	30.1%	435	26.4%	-3.75
Hispanic or Latino	1,789	18.3%	192	11.6%	-6.68
Multi-racial	562	5.8%	111	6.7%	0.97
Asian	514	5.3%	51	3.1%	-2.17
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	10	0.1%	0	0.0%	-0.10
American Indian/Alaskan Native	5	0.1%	1	0.1%	0.01
Unknown*	3	-	19	1.2%	-

***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 67.3% of the population reporting this disability. The second most common exceptionality or disability statewide is a physical or mental condition with likely developmental delay (25.2% of the population). The third category of exceptionalities, atypical development or behavior, constitutes 7.5% of the population. Parents of children who have at least 25% Development Delay (DD) were slightly underrepresented among survey respondents, as well as parents of children who have an Atypical Development or Behavior (AD/B). Parents of children Diagnosed Physical or Mental Condition with High Probability of Developmental Delay (DD) were slightly overrepresented by the survey. Only one group reached the 3% threshold, parents of children who have at least 25% Development Delay (DD), which accounted for the largest percentage of responses as well. Overall, the sample was representative of the population with regard to exceptionalities/disabilities of the students.

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

	Population (N=11,027)*		Respondents (N=4,276)		Over (Under) Representation
	N	**%[†]**	**N**	**%[†]**	
At Least 25% Developmental Delay (DD)	6,570	67.3%	1,050	63.6%	-3.62
Diagnosed Physical or Mental Condition with High Probability of Developmental Delay (DD)	2,465	25.2%	420	25.5%	0.22
Atypical Development or Behavior (AD/B)	733	7.5%	112	6.8%	-0.72

Note: [†]Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding
Note: *Two records in the data did not have this information listed.

2.3   Jurisdiction

While a majority of the survey respondents were not overrepresented, there are six counties where respondents are underrepresented in the sample by more than 3%: Garrett, Wicomico, Allegany, Worcester, Howard and Baltimore County.

Exhibit 2.3: 2019-20 Survey Representativeness by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction	Active and Eligible Children		Survey Responses		Over or Under-Representation
	n*	% of Total	n	% of Total	% pts
Baltimore City	133	1.36%	119	2.74%	1.38%
Frederick	43	0.44%	35	0.81%	0.37%
Washington	45	0.46%	28	0.65%	0.18%
Calvert	175	1.79%	79	1.82%	0.03%
Somerset	48	0.49%	19	0.44%	-0.05%
Caroline	23	0.24%	5	0.12%	-0.12%
Dorchester	33	0.34%	4	0.09%	-0.25%
Carroll	65	0.67%	18	0.41%	-0.25%
Cecil	51	0.52%	11	0.25%	-0.27%
Queen Anne's	353	3.61%	136	3.13%	-0.48%
Anne Arundel	102	1.04%	20	0.46%	-0.58%
Talbot	92	0.94%	11	0.25%	-0.69%
Prince George's	193	1.98%	35	0.81%	-1.17%
Montgomery	212	2.17%	37	0.85%	-1.32%
Saint Mary's	202	2.07%	25	0.58%	-1.49%
Charles	202	2.07%	24	0.55%	-1.51%
Harford	188	1.92%	3	0.07%	-1.86%
Kent	515	5.27%	103	2.37%	-2.90%
Garrett	**488**	**5.00%**	**65**	**1.50%**	**-3.50%**
Wicomico	**1,036**	**10.60%**	**246**	**5.67%**	**-4.94%**
Allegany	**1,055**	**10.80%**	**109**	**2.51%**	**-8.29%**
Worcester	**1,256**	**12.86%**	**124**	**2.86%**	**-10.00%**
Howard	**1,343**	**13.75%**	**136**	**3.13%**	**-10.61%**
Baltimore County	**1,916**	**19.61%**	**240**	**5.53%**	**-14.08%**

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 2019-20 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 well above the targets established in Maryland's SPP.

Exhibit 3.1: 2019-20 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	96.65% (=1,558/1,612)	93.0%
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	95.93% (=1,532/1,597)	92.5%
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	96.25% (=1,538/1,598)	92.0%

Exhibit 3.2 displays the 2019-20 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 Allegany, Caroline, Cecil, Charles, Frederick, Garrett, Kent, Somerset, Talbot and Worcester counties.

Exhibit 3.2: 2019-20 Estimates for Part C Indicator 4a

Jurisdiction	% Agreement	N*	Indicator 4a Std. error	Lower CI**	Upper CI**
Statewide	**96.65%**	**1,612**	**0.00**	**96.63%**	**96.67%**
Allegany	100.00%	19	0.03	97.16%	100.00%
Anne Arundel	92.31%	104	0.01	91.76%	92.85%
Baltimore City	99.18%	244	0.00	99.08%	99.28%
Baltimore County	93.89%	131	0.00	93.50%	94.28%
Calvert	92.31%	78	0.01	91.57%	93.05%
Caroline	100.00%	11	0.06	94.07%	100.00%
Carroll	95.83%	24	0.02	93.35%	98.32%
Cecil	100.00%	3	0.29	70.83%	100.00%
Charles	100.00%	24	0.02	97.95%	100.00%
Dorchester	96.43%	28	0.02	94.42%	98.44%
Frederick	100.00%	132	0.00	99.83%	100.00%
Garrett	100.00%	35	0.01	98.80%	100.00%
Harford	94.00%	100	0.01	93.48%	94.52%
Howard	93.55%	62	0.01	92.65%	94.45%
Kent	100.00%	3	0.29	70.83%	100.00%
Montgomery	96.19%	236	0.00	96.01%	96.36%
Prince George's	96.61%	118	0.00	96.25%	96.97%
Queen Anne's	90.91%	11	0.07	83.86%	97.96%
Saint Mary's	97.30%	37	0.01	95.94%	98.65%
Somerset	100.00%	4	0.21	79.07%	100.00%
Talbot	100.00%	18	0.03	96.94%	100.00%
Washington	97.14%	35	0.01	95.68%	98.61%
Wicomico	99.15%	118	0.00	98.90%	99.40%
Worcester	100.00%	19	0.03	97.16%	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 2019-20 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 Allegany, Caroline, Charles, Garrett, Kent and Worcester counties.

Exhibit 3.3: 2019-20 Estimates for Part C Indicator 4b

Jurisdiction	% Agreement	N*	Indicator 4b Std. error	Lower CI**	Upper CI**
Statewide	**95.93%**	**1,597**	**0.00**	**95.91%**	**95.95%**
Allegany	100.00%	19	0.03	97.16%	100.00%
Anne Arundel	97.09%	103	0.00	96.69%	97.48%
Baltimore City	97.94%	243	0.00	97.81%	98.08%
Baltimore County	94.62%	130	0.00	94.24%	94.99%
Calvert	94.87%	78	0.01	94.22%	95.52%
Caroline	100.00%	10	0.07	93.28%	100.00%
Carroll	95.83%	24	0.02	93.35%	98.32%
Cecil	66.67%	3	0.32	34.41%	98.92%
Charles	100.00%	24	0.02	97.95%	100.00%
Dorchester	92.59%	27	0.02	90.18%	95.00%
Frederick	98.50%	133	0.00	98.25%	98.74%
Garrett	100.00%	35	0.01	98.80%	100.00%
Harford	94.95%	99	0.00	94.45%	95.44%
Howard	90.16%	61	0.01	89.11%	91.21%
Kent	100.00%	3	0.29	70.83%	100.00%
Montgomery	94.85%	233	0.00	94.65%	95.05%
Prince George's	94.87%	117	0.00	94.46%	95.29%
Queen Anne's	90.00%	10	0.08	82.04%	97.96%
Saint Mary's	91.18%	34	0.02	89.24%	93.11%
Somerset	75.00%	4	0.24	51.38%	98.62%
Talbot	94.44%	18	0.04	90.76%	98.13%
Washington	97.14%	35	0.01	95.68%	98.61%
Wicomico	98.32%	119	0.00	98.03%	98.61%
Worcester	100.00%	18	0.03	96.94%	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 3.4 displays 2019-20 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, Garrett, Kent, Queen Anne's Talbot and Worchester counties.

Exhibit 3.4: 2019-20 Estimates for Part C Indicator 4c

Jurisdiction	% Agreement	N*	Indicator 4c Std. error	Lower CI**	Upper CI**
Statewide	**96.25%**	**1,598**	**0.00**	**96.22%**	**96.27%**
Allegany	94.74%	19	0.03	91.31%	98.16%
Anne Arundel	94.06%	101	0.01	93.55%	94.57%
Baltimore City	98.76%	242	0.00	98.65%	98.87%
Baltimore County	96.92%	130	0.00	96.61%	97.23%
Calvert	94.94%	79	0.01	94.30%	95.57%
Caroline	100.00%	11	0.06	94.07%	100.00%
Carroll	95.83%	24	0.02	93.35%	98.32%
Cecil	66.67%	3	0.32	34.41%	98.92%
Charles	95.83%	24	0.02	93.35%	98.32%
Dorchester	92.86%	28	0.02	90.57%	95.15%
Frederick	97.78%	135	0.00	97.51%	98.05%
Garrett	100.00%	35	0.01	98.80%	100.00%
Harford	94.95%	99	0.00	94.45%	95.44%
Howard	90.16%	61	0.01	89.11%	91.21%
Kent	100.00%	3	0.29	70.83%	100.00%
Montgomery	95.30%	234	0.00	95.11%	95.49%
Prince George's	94.69%	113	0.00	94.26%	95.13%
Queen Anne's	100.00%	11	0.06	94.07%	100.00%
Saint Mary's	97.14%	35	0.01	95.68%	98.61%
Somerset	75.00%	4	0.24	51.38%	98.62%
Talbot	100.00%	18	0.03	96.94%	100.00%
Washington	97.14%	35	0.01	95.68%	98.61%
Wicomico	98.28%	116	0.00	97.98%	98.57%
Worcester	100.00%	19	0.03	97.16%	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.
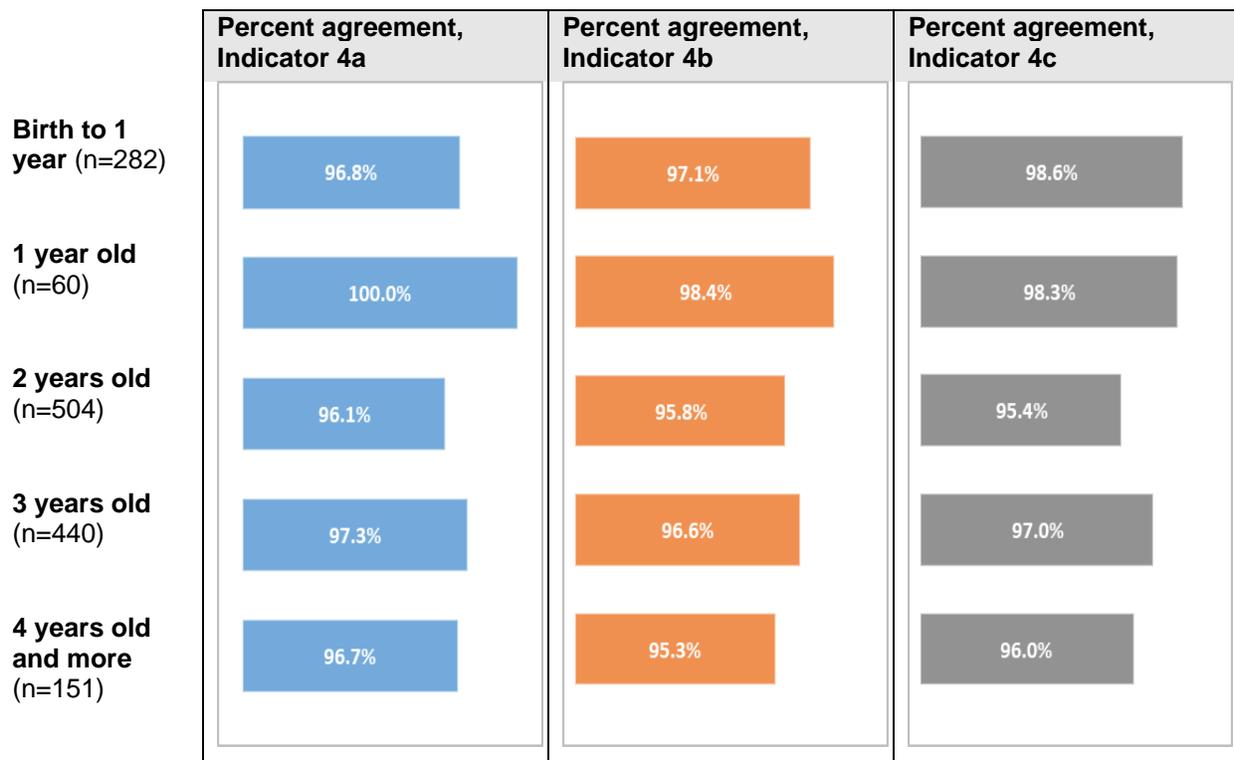**Note**: **Confidence intervals are calculated at a 95% Confidence Level

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 1 year old tend to show the highest levels of agreement across all indicators (averaging 99%), followed by those with children birth to one year of age. The lowest levels of agreement tend to be with families of children aged 2-years-old (averaging 95% percent) across all indicators.

Exhibit 4.1: FFY 2018 Indicator 4 Results by Age of Child at Time of Survey Response

	Percent agreement, Indicator 4a	Percent agreement, Indicator 4b	Percent agreement, Indicator 4c
Birth to 1 year (n=282)	96.8%	97.1%	98.6%
1 year old (n=60)	100.0%	98.4%	98.3%
2 years old (n=504)	96.1%	95.8%	95.4%
3 years old (n=440)	97.3%	96.6%	97.0%
4 years old and more (n=151)	96.7%	95.3%	96.0%

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 agreements levels (less than 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 for families referred to early intervention services between birth to one year of age.
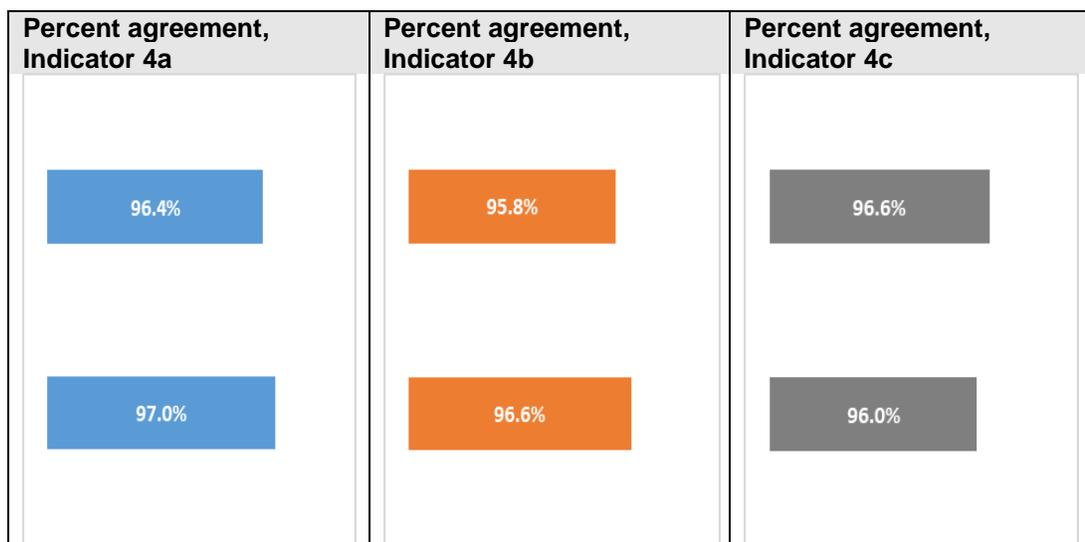
Exhibit 4.2: FFY 2018 Indicator 4 Results by Age of Child at Referral
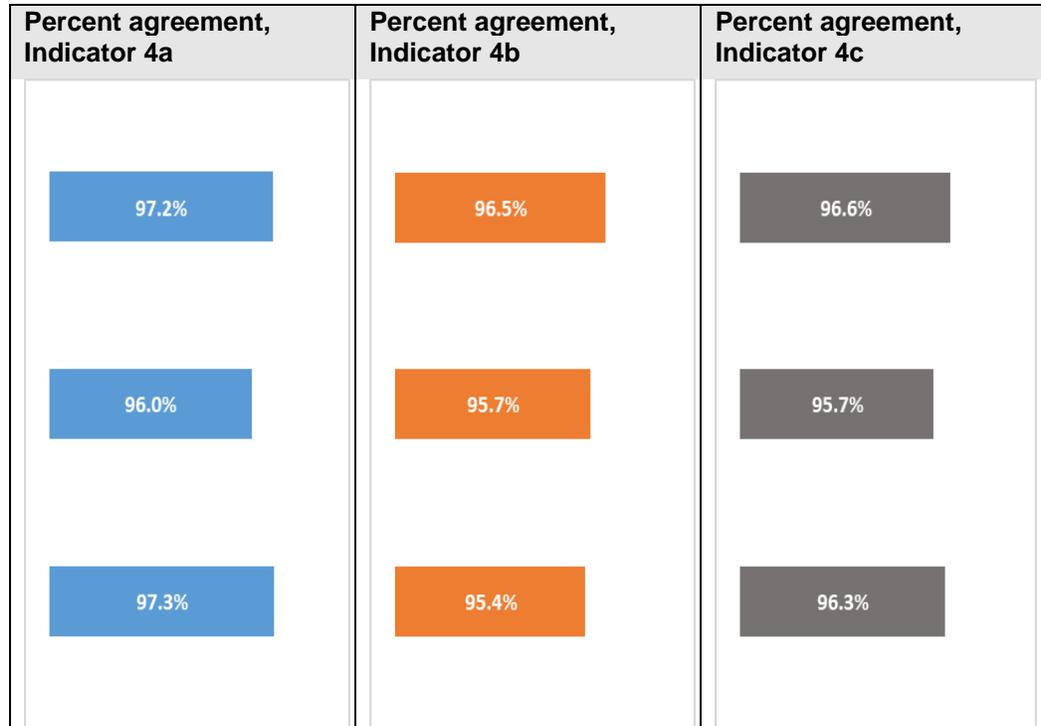
	Percent agreement, Indicator 4a	Percent agreement, Indicator 4b	Percent agreement, Indicator 4c
Birth to 1 year (n=596)	97.2%	96.5%	96.6%
1-2 years (n=652)	96.0%	95.7%	95.7%
2-3 years (n=327)	97.3%	95.4%	96.3%

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 (less than 1 percentage point) between families of male children and families of female children receiving early intervention services.

Exhibit 4.3: FFY 2018 Indicator 4 Results by Gender of Child

	Percent agreement, Indicator 4a	Percent agreement, Indicator 4b	Percent agreement, Indicator 4c
Male (n=984)	96.4%	95.8%	96.6%
Female (n=597)	97.0%	96.6%	96.0%

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: Families who responded to the survey in Spanish had a higher percentage of agreement over all three indicators. The greatest difference between English and Spanish homes was related to Indicator 4b (2.7 percentage points).

Exhibit 4.4: FFY 2018 Indicator 4 Results by Survey Language
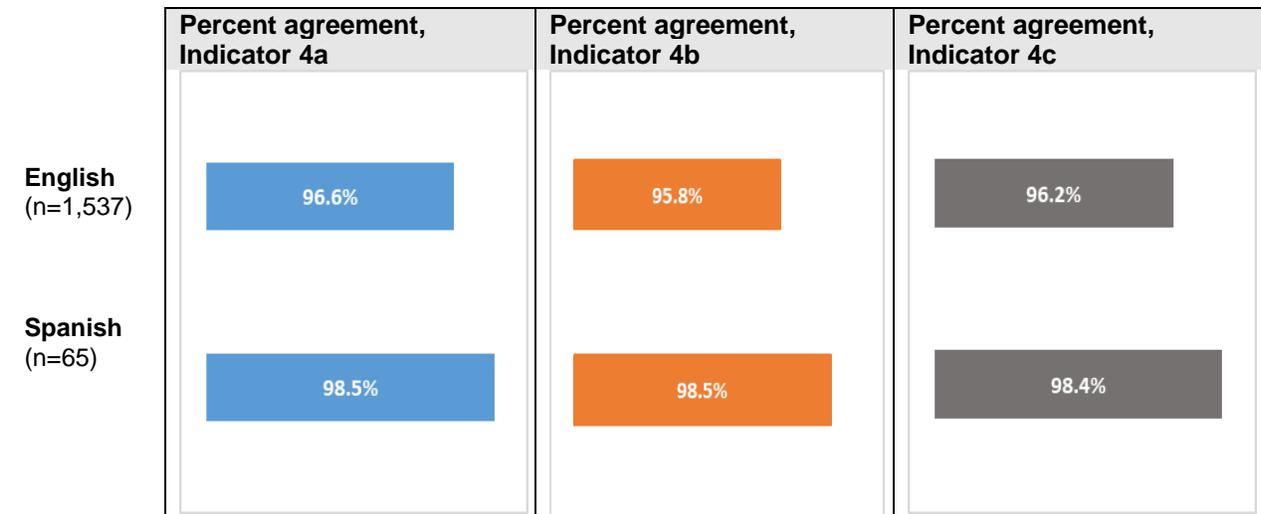
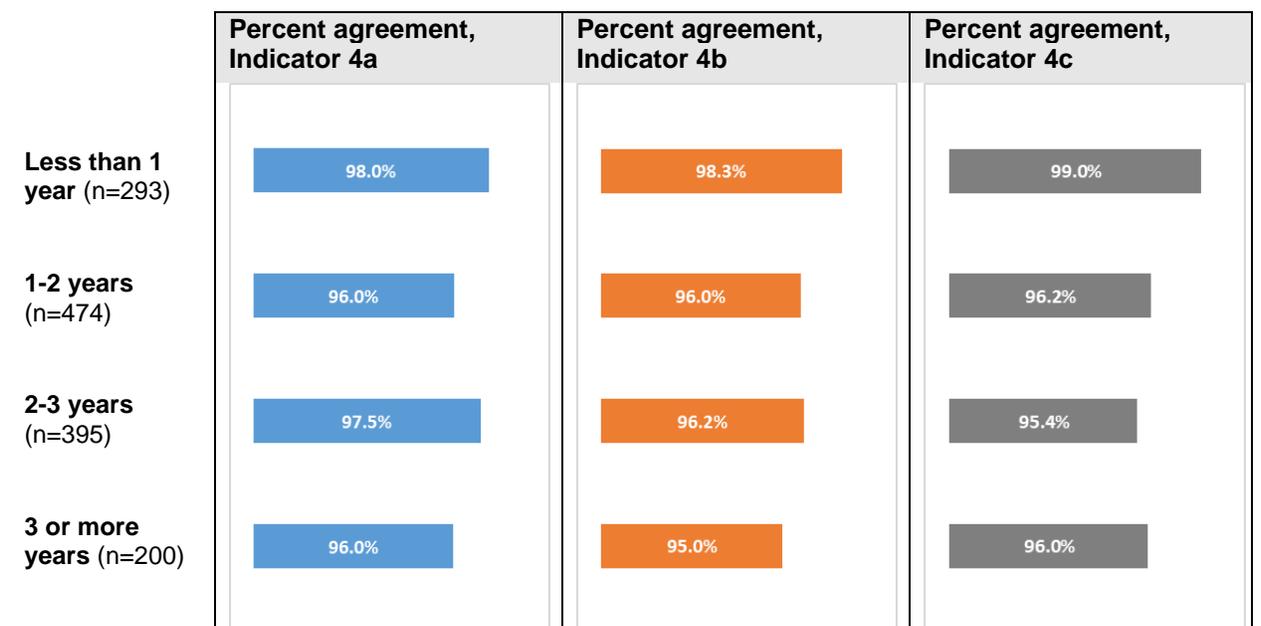|	Percent agreement, Indicator 4a	Percent agreement, Indicator 4b	Percent agreement, Indicator 4c
English (n=1,537)	96.6%	95.8%	96.2%
Spanish (n=65)	98.5%	98.5%	98.4%

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 1-2 years and 3 or more years had the lowest agreement levels across all indicators (around 96%). Families in the program less than 1 year had the highest agreement levels across all indicators. The greatest difference in agreement levels is 3.6 percentage points for Indicator 4c, with the greatest agreement for families in the program less than one year (99%) and lowest agreement levels for families in the program 2-3 years (95.4%).

Exhibit 4.5: FFY 2018 Indicator 4 Results by Length of Time in Part C

	Percent agreement, Indicator 4a	Percent agreement, Indicator 4b	Percent agreement, Indicator 4c
Less than 1 year (n=293)	98.0%	98.3%	99.0%
1-2 years (n=474)	96.0%	96.0%	96.2%
2-3 years (n=395)	97.5%	96.2%	95.4%
3 or more years (n=200)	96.0%	95.0%	96.0%

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. There were no discernable differences in agreement levels (less than 1 percentage point) between families with children birth to 3 years and those above 3 years old.
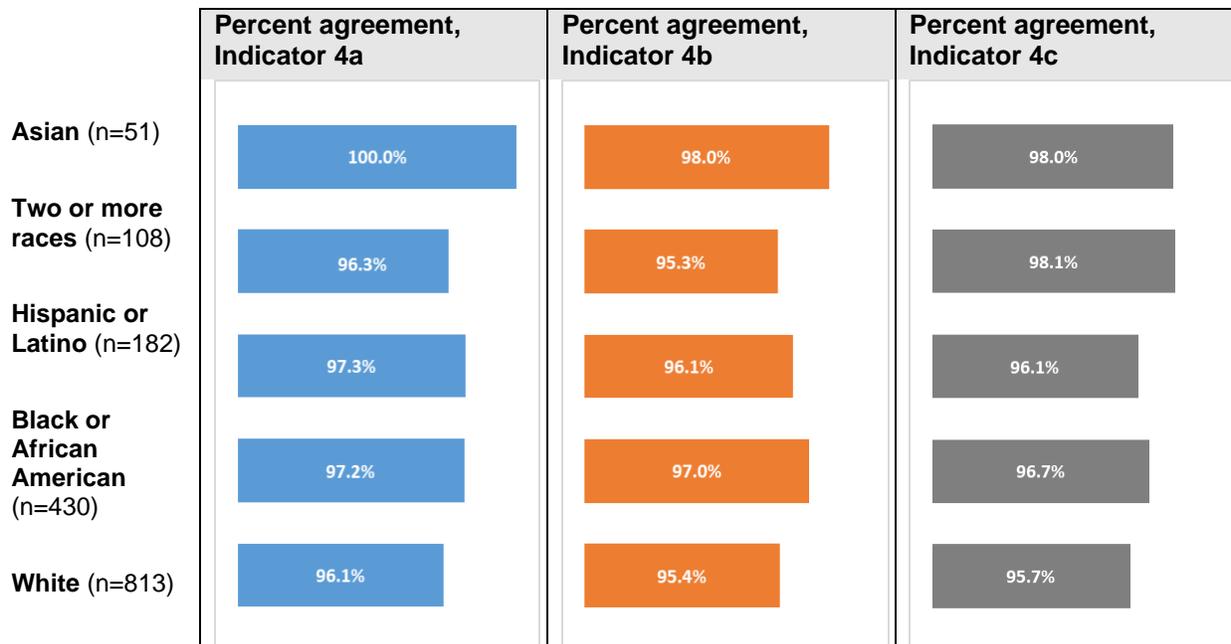
Exhibit 4.6: FFY 2018 Indicator 4 Results by Extended IFSP Option
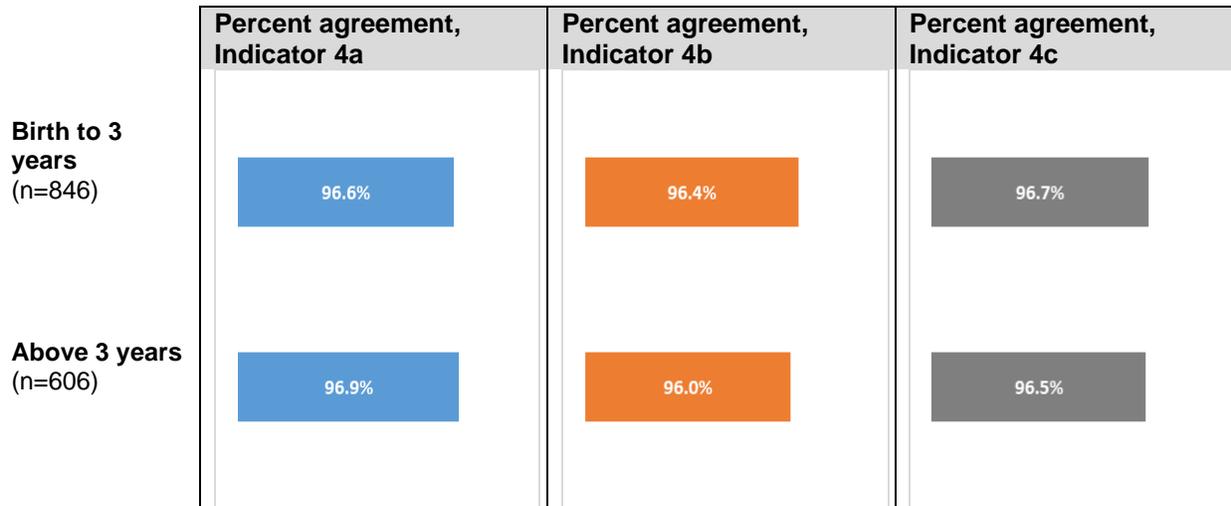
	Percent agreement, Indicator 4a	Percent agreement, Indicator 4b	Percent agreement, Indicator 4c
Birth to 3 years (n=846)	96.6%	96.4%	96.7%
Above 3 years (n=606)	96.9%	96.0%	96.5%

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: Asian families had the highest level of agreement across all three indicators, while being the smallest group (n=51). There were very small differences in levels of agreement (1 to 1.6 percentage points) for all three indicators between the two largest groups: Black and White families. Aside from the Asian responses, participants of two or more races and Hispanic or Latino families tended to agree across all Indicators, with less than a 2-percentage point difference.

Exhibit 4.7: FFY 2018 Indicator 4 Results by Race/Ethnicity of Families Responding

	Percent agreement, Indicator 4a	Percent agreement, Indicator 4b	Percent agreement, Indicator 4c
Asian (n=51)	100.0%	98.0%	98.0%
Two or more races (n=108)	96.3%	95.3%	98.1%
Hispanic or Latino (n=182)	97.3%	96.1%	96.1%
Black or African American (n=430)	97.2%	97.0%	96.7%
White (n=813)	96.1%	95.4%	95.7%

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: Grandparents had the highest level of agreement across all indicators (100%). Overall, Fathers had among the lowest levels of agreement across all indicators. In the largest group of respondents, Mothers, there was less than 1.2 percentage point difference in agreement across all indicators. Foster parents had the highest level of agreement with Indicator 4a, while the "other' respondent group had the highest level of agreement with Indicator 4c (both 100%).
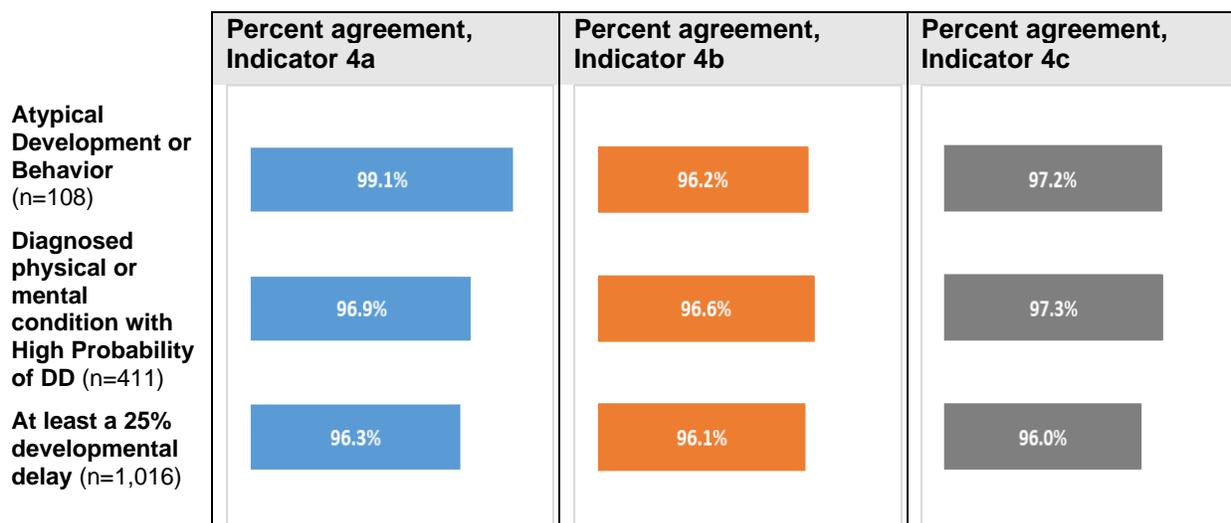
Exhibit 4.8: FFY 2018 Indicator 4 Results by Relationship of Respondent to the Child
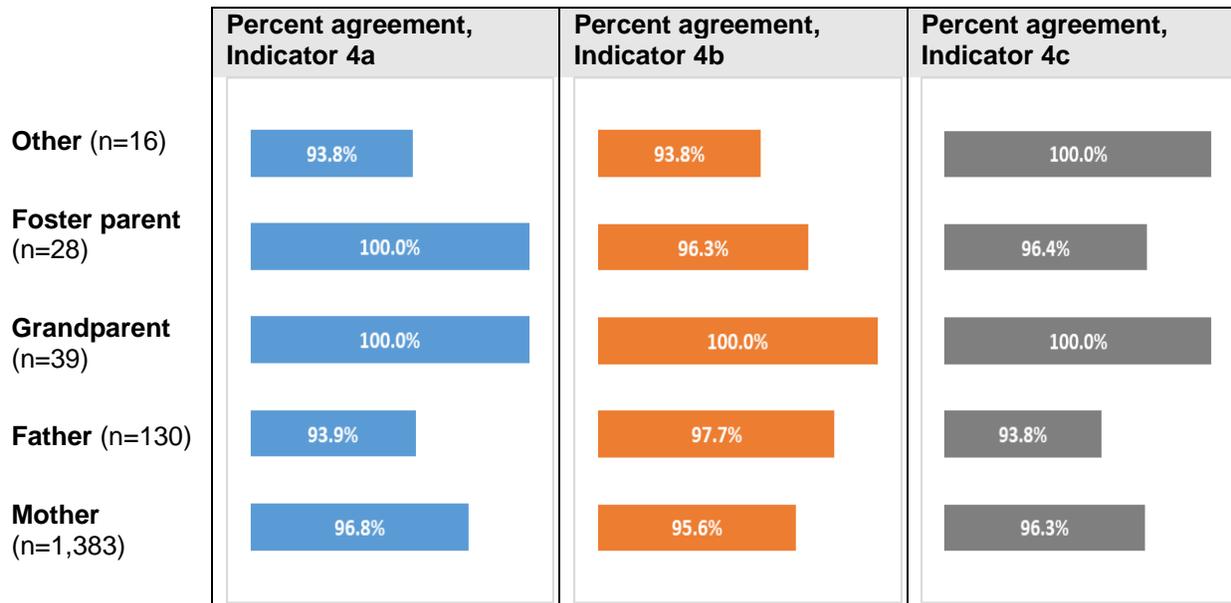
	Percent agreement, Indicator 4a	Percent agreement, Indicator 4b	Percent agreement, Indicator 4c
Other (n=16)	93.8%	93.8%	100.0%
Foster parent (n=28)	100.0%	96.3%	96.4%
Grandparent (n=39)	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Father (n=130)	93.9%	97.7%	93.8%
Mother (n=1,383)	96.8%	95.6%	96.3%

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 a Atypical Development or Behavior tended to rate Indicator 4a the highest (99.1%). Parents of students diagnosed with a physical or mental condition rated Indicators 4b and 4c the highest (96.6% and 97.3%, respectively). Parents of students with at least a 25% development disability had the lowest level of agreements across all three indicators. The greatest difference (between 2.2 and 2.8 percentage points) was between the different eligibility determinations for Indicator 4a.

Exhibit 4.9: FFY 2018 Indicator 4 Results by Eligibility Determination

	Percent agreement, Indicator 4a	Percent agreement, Indicator 4b	Percent agreement, Indicator 4c
Atypical Development or Behavior (n=108)	99.1%	96.2%	97.2%
Diagnosed physical or mental condition with High Probability of DD (n=411)	96.9%	96.6%	97.3%
At least a 25% developmental delay (n=1,016)	96.3%	96.1%	96.0%

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. The majority of parents agreed with each item on the survey, including 19 items where at least 95% of respondents agreed. The statement with the highest percentage of agreement (98.2%) 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 (88.0%) 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.	1,536	1.5%	1.0%	9.4%	35.9%	19.7%	32.4%	88.0%
4. know about services in the community.	1,602	0.8%	0.9%	6.0%	35.4%	24.2%	32.7%	92.3%
5. know where to go for support to meet my child's needs.	1,613	0.8%	0.8%	3.5%	33.7%	25.0%	36.1%	94.9%
6. know where to go for support to meet my family's needs.	1,590	0.8%	0.8%	6.7%	36.5%	23.8%	31.4%	91.8%
7. get the services that my child and family need.	1,620	0.7%	1.0%	3.2%	29.8%	24.8%	40.5%	95.0%
8. feel more confident in my skills as a parent.	1,622	0.7%	0.4%	2.6%	30.0%	24.4%	42.0%	96.3%
9. make changes in family routines that will benefit my child with special needs.	1,579	0.4%	0.3%	3.7%	30.1%	25.8%	39.7%	95.6%
10. be more effective in managing my child's behavior.	1,584	0.8%	0.4%	4.4%	35.0%	26.0%	33.5%	94.5%
11. do activities that are good for my child even in times of stress.	1,600	0.8%	0.3%	3.7%	33.1%	25.1%	37.1%	95.3%
12. feel that I can get the services and supports that my child and family need.	1,616	0.9%	0.9%	3.6%	31.1%	23.6%	39.9%	94.6%
13. understand how the early intervention system works.	1,626	0.6%	0.5%	2.1%	31.4%	24.2%	41.2%	96.8%
14. be able to evaluate how much progress my child is making.	1,629	0.6%	0.3%	2.7%	28.9%	25.9%	41.6%	96.4%
15. feel that my child will be accepted and welcomed in the community.	1,552	0.6%	0.1%	4.2%	32.8%	21.5%	40.7%	95.0%
16. feel that my family will be accepted and welcomed in the community.	1,542	0.5%	0.1%	4.1%	34.0%	22.2%	39.1%	95.3%

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)	**1,597**	**0.5%**	**0.4%**	**3.2%**	**30.9%**	**25.9%**	**39.1%**	**95.9%**
18. understand the roles of the people who work with my child and family.	1,598	0.5%	0.3%	2.6%	32.0%	23.6%	41.0%	96.6%
19. know about my child's and family's rights concerning early intervention services. (4a)	**1,612**	**0.4%**	**0.4%**	**2.6%**	**32.3%**	**24.6%**	**39.8%**	**96.7%**
20. do things with and for my child that are good for my child's development.	1,627	0.3%	0.2%	1.2%	25.9%	25.4%	46.9%	98.2%
21. understand my child's special needs. (4c)	**1,598**	**0.7%**	**0.3%**	**2.8%**	**29.0%**	**25.4%**	**41.8%**	**96.2%**
22. feel that my efforts are helping my child.	1,613	0.4%	0.2%	1.8%	25.2%	25.3%	47.2%	97.6%
23. figure out solutions to problems as they come up.	1,619	0.4%	0.6%	2.3%	29.5%	26.6%	40.6%	96.7%
24. feel that I can handle the challenges of parenting a child with special needs.	1,566	0.6%	0.6%	3.1%	31.7%	23.8%	39.1%	94.6%
Parents completed the following questions if their child turned 3 years old before July 1, 2019 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*	623	1.1%	0.6%	1.8%	26.0%	27.0%	43.5%	96.5%
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).*	603	1.0%	0.5%	3.0%	31.8%	24.5%	39.1%	95.5%

*Note: State-provided demographic data were used to exclude inappropriate respondents (families whose child was not age three by the July 1st, 2019 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 2019.

Response Rate

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 2005-08, the average response rate was 23.6%. In the following four years, 2009-12, the response rate grew to 43.3%. From 2013 to the present, the average response rate increased more gradually to 46.0% in 2016-17. In 2017-18 we had a decline of 9.8% in responses from the previous year, but in 2018-19 we had an increase of 3.9 percentage points. The 2019-20 response rate of 17.3% (a sharp decrease of 22.8 percentage points) is 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.

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%

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

OSEP Indicator 4

The figures below show the target and actual percentage agreement with Indicators 4a, 4b, and 4c. From 2010-19, the actual percentage agreement for all three indicators have remained well above the annual targets established in Maryland's SPP. For Indicators 4a the value of the indicator is 3.7 percentage points above the state target, for Indicator 4b it is 3.4 percentage points above the state target, while for 4c, the actual percentage agreement value is 4.3 percentage points higher than the target.

Indicator 4a

Indicator 4b

Indicator 4c