



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

2016-2017

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Submitted to:

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

Submitted by:

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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 2016-17. 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 2016-17. The Survey was launched in mid-September and closed in mid-November. Notably, values of Indicator 4a and 4b for 2016-17 are slightly higher than in the previous year, while indicator 4c is slightly lower. However, all these changes are less than 3% and not statistically significant.

As in prior years, the 2016-17 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 2016-17; a total of 10,455 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. These directors were responsible for distributing the surveys to 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 was maintained for parents for the duration of the survey.

Response rate reports were submitted to MSDE at three points during the survey window: October 20, November 2, and November 22, 2017. The last surveys to be included in this report arrived at ICF's office on November 17, 2017.

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.

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 10,455 surveys distributed to families, 4,698 completed surveys were returned – resulting in an adjusted response rate¹ of 46.0% (which is the same amount as last year). Five jurisdictions achieved an adjusted response rate of at least 70%, and 18 jurisdictions (75.0% of all local jurisdictions) achieved a response rate of at least 40%. The jurisdictions with the highest adjusted response rates (above 70%) were:

- Garrett County (100%)
- Dorchester County (98.1%)
- Wicomico County (98.1%)
- Caroline County (86.5%)
- Allegany County (81.2%)

Response rate data by county is presented in Exhibit 1.1. Charles County achieved the lowest response rate this year, 23.4%, with 55 returned surveys, all of which were completed online.

Statewide, 4,291 surveys were completed in English (91.3%) and 407 surveys were completed in Spanish (8.7%). In 5 of the 24 jurisdictions, there were no surveys completed in Spanish. Paper surveys were much more common than online surveys. Overall, 4,542 paper surveys were completed (96.7% of all surveys), while 156 surveys were completed online. Out of the 156 online surveys, 55 were completed in Charles County.

A total of 253 surveys (2.4%) were undeliverable because the addresses were out of date or inaccurate. The jurisdictions with the highest rate of undeliverable Surveys (more than 3%) were:

- Caroline County (7.5% undeliverable)
- Worcester County (4.1% undeliverable)
- Prince George's County (4.0% undeliverable)
- Somerset County (3.7% undeliverable)
- Baltimore City (3.6% undeliverable)
- Frederick County (3.5% undeliverable)
- Washington County (3.3% undeliverable)

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	10,455	4,698	4,136	155	406	1	253	46.0%
Allegany	103	82	81	1	-	-	2	81.2%
Anne Arundel	1,247	482	459	1	22	-	26	39.5%
Baltimore City	1,068	282	271	2	9	-	38	27.4%
Baltimore County	1,412	713	688	2	23	-	16	51.1%
Calvert	189	98	93	4	1	-	2	52.4%
Caroline	40	32	27	1	4	-	3	86.5%
Carroll	278	75	73	2	-	-	-	27.0%
Cecil	157	67	64	-	3	-	-	42.7%
Charles	235	55	-	55	-	-	-	23.4%
Dorchester	52	51	48	-	3	-	-	98.1%
Frederick	371	177	156	15	6	-	13	49.4%
Garrett	32	32	32	-	-	-	-	100.0%
Harford	448	190	189	-	1	-	13	43.7%
Howard	503	129	124	1	4	-	14	26.4%
Kent	31	21	17	-	4	-	-	67.7%
Montgomery	2,041	944	772	40	131	1	53	47.5%
Prince George's	1,457	819	616	21	182	-	58	58.5%
Queen Anne's	73	32	24	7	1	-	-	43.8%
St. Mary's	204	122	120	-	2	-	3	60.7%
Somerset	27	9	9	-	-	-	1	34.6%
Talbot	69	19	13	-	6	-	-	27.5%
Washington	241	122	121	-	1	-	8	52.4%
Wicomico	103	101	99	-	2	-	-	98.1%
Worcester	74	33	32	-	1	-	3	46.5%
Unknown*	-	11	8	3	-	-	-	-

***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 their county of service.

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 4,534 respondents answered this question. Of the respondents who answered this question, 75.1% (n=3,403) indicated that their children had been referred to MITP between birth and age two, while 24.9% (n=1131) 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 (65.3%, n=2,981), while 1,586 of the respondent's children receiving services were female (34.7%). Respondents were asked to classify their relationship to the child receiving early intervention services (n=4,656). Overwhelmingly, mothers completed the survey (85.7%), followed by fathers (10.0%). Foster parents, grandparents and others accounted for the remaining 4.3% 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 2017 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 (45.2%) and Black or African-American children (25.3%). Parents of Black or African-American children are underrepresented by 2.6% in the survey when compared to the state population. In addition, parents of White children are overrepresented in the survey by 1.9% percentage points. With regard to race/ethnicity, the Survey respondents were relatively representative of the statewide population with none of the Race/Ethnicity categories in the sample being more than 3% different than that of the population.

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

	Population (N=10,455)		Respondents (N=4,698)		Over (Under) Representation
	N	%	N	%	
Race/Ethnicity					
White	4,532	43.3%	2,124	45.2%	+1.9
Black or African-American	2,918	27.9%	1,188	25.3%	-2.6
Hispanic or Latino	1,847	17.7%	775	16.5%	-1.2
Multi-racial	609	5.8%	261	5.6%	-0.3
Asian	526	5.0%	207	4.4%	-0.6
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	13	<1%	5	<1.0%	0.0
American Indian/Alaskan Native	10	<1%	4	<1%	0.0
Unknown*	-	-	134	2.9%	-

*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 60.8% of the population reporting this disability. The second most common exceptionality or disability statewide is a physical or mental condition with likely developmental delay (27.9% of the population). The third category of exceptionalities, atypical development or behavior, constitutes 8.9% of the population. Parents of children who have at least 25% Development Delay (DD) are underrepresented among survey respondents.

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

	Population (N=10,455)		Respondents (N=4,698)		Over (Under) Representation
	N	% [†]	N	% [†]	
At Least 25% Developmental Delay (DD)	6,812	65.2%	2,854	60.8%	-4.4
Diagnosed Physical or Mental Condition with High Probability of Developmental Delay (DD)	2,648	25.3%	1,313	27.9%	+2.6
Atypical Development or Behavior (AD/B)	995	9.5%	418	8.9%	-0.6

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

2.3 Jurisdiction

Exhibit 2.3 summarizes how well each jurisdiction is represented in the sample. Survey respondents from Prince George's County are slightly overrepresented, while survey respondents from Baltimore City are slightly underrepresented.

Exhibit 2.3: 2016-17 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	1,457	13.9%	819	18.4%	+4.5
Baltimore County	1,412	13.5%	713	16.0%	+2.5
Montgomery	2,041	19.5%	944	21.2%	+1.7
Wicomico	103	1.0%	101	2.3%	+1.3
Allegany	103	1.0%	82	1.8%	+0.9
Saint Mary's	204	2.0%	122	2.7%	+0.8
Dorchester	52	0.5%	51	1.12%	+0.7
Washington	241	2.3%	122	2.7%	+0.4
Frederick	371	3.6%	177	4.0%	+0.4
Garrett	32	0.3%	32	0.7%	+0.4
Calvert	189	1.8%	98	2.2%	+0.4
Caroline	40	0.5%	32	0.7%	+0.3
<i>Unknown*</i>	0	0.0%	11	0.3%	+0.3
Kent	31	0.3%	21	0.5%	+0.2
Worcester	74	0.7%	33	0.7%	0.0
Queen Anne's	73	0.7%	32	0.7%	0.0
Cecil	157	1.5%	67	1.5%	0.0
Harford	448	4.3%	190	4.3%	0.0
Somerset	27	0.3%	9	0.2%	0.0
Talbot	69	0.7%	19	0.4%	-0.2
Carroll	278	2.7%	75	1.7%	-1.0
Charles	235	2.3%	55	1.2%	-1.0
Anne Arundel	1,247	11.9%	482	10.8%	-1.1
Howard	503	4.8%	129	2.9%	-1.9
Baltimore City	1,068	10.2%	282	6.3%	-3.9
Total	10,455	100.0%	4,698	100.0%	--

***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 the jurisdiction they live in.

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 2016-17 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: 2016-17 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	98.18% (=4,524/4,608)	87.0%
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	97.74% (=4,456/4,559)	85.6%
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	97.88% (=4,429/4,525)	90.5%

Exhibit 3.2 displays the 2016-17 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. Data for Somerset County are omitted because there are fewer than 10 respondents. Jurisdictions with 100% agreement include Caroline, Charles, Dorchester, Queen Anne's, and Talbot counties.

Exhibit 3.2: 2016-17 Estimates for Part C Indicator 4a

Jurisdiction	% Agreement	N	Indicator 4a Std. error	Lower CI	Upper CI
Statewide	98.18%	4,608	0.00	98.17%	98.18%
Allegany	98.78%	82	0.00	98.35%	99.21%
Anne Arundel	97.42%	465	0.00	97.35%	97.49%
Baltimore City	97.81%	274	0.00	97.69%	97.93%
Baltimore County	98.58%	703	0.00	98.54%	98.61%
Calvert	98.94%	94	0.00	98.58%	99.29%
Caroline	100.00%	29	0.02	98.43%	100.00%
Carroll	97.33%	75	0.01	96.77%	97.90%
Cecil	98.48%	66	0.01	97.89%	99.08%
Charles	100.00%	55	0.01	99.37%	100.00%
Dorchester	100.00%	49	0.01	99.26%	100.00%
Frederick	98.86%	176	0.00	98.70%	99.03%
Garrett	96.88%	32	0.02	95.21%	98.54%
Harford	94.57%	184	0.00	94.31%	94.82%
Howard	99.21%	127	0.00	98.99%	99.44%
Kent	95.00%	20	0.03	91.81%	98.19%
Montgomery	97.86%	934	0.00	97.83%	97.89%
Prince George's	99.25%	803	0.00	99.23%	99.28%
Queen Anne's	100.00%	31	0.01	98.57%	100.00%
Saint Mary's	99.15%	118	0.00	98.90%	99.40%
Somerset	--	9	--	--	--
Talbot	100.00%	19	0.03	97.16%	100.00%
Washington	96.64%	119	0.00	96.29%	96.99%
Wicomico	97.00%	100	0.00	96.59%	97.41%
Worcester	93.94%	33	0.02	92.12%	95.76%

Exhibit 3.3 displays 2016-17 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. Data for Somerset County are omitted because there are fewer than 10 respondents. Jurisdictions with 100% agreement include Allegany, Caroline, Queen Anne's, and Talbot counties.

Exhibit 3.3: 2016-17 Estimates for Part C Indicator 4b

Jurisdiction	% Agreement	N	Indicator 4b Std. error	Lower CI	Upper CI
Statewide	97.74%	4,559	0.00	97.73%	97.75%
Allegany	100.00%	80	0.00	99.64%	100.00%
Anne Arundel	97.19%	462	0.00	97.11%	97.26%
Baltimore City	96.39%	277	0.00	96.25%	96.53%
Baltimore County	98.28%	697	0.00	98.24%	98.32%
Calvert	98.95%	95	0.00	98.60%	99.29%
Caroline	100.00%	29	0.02	98.43%	100.00%
Carroll	97.26%	73	0.01	96.67%	97.85%
Cecil	98.48%	66	0.01	97.89%	99.08%
Charles	98.15%	54	0.01	97.36%	98.94%
Dorchester	98.04%	51	0.01	97.18%	98.90%
Frederick	98.85%	174	0.00	98.69%	99.02%
Garrett	96.88%	32	0.02	95.21%	98.54%
Harford	96.77%	186	0.00	96.56%	96.98%
Howard	97.48%	119	0.00	97.16%	97.80%
Kent	95.24%	21	0.03	92.25%	98.23%
Montgomery	97.71%	917	0.00	97.68%	97.74%
Prince George's	97.48%	795	0.00	97.44%	97.52%
Queen Anne's	100.00%	30	0.01	98.50%	100.00%
Saint Mary's	98.25%	114	0.00	97.94%	98.55%
Somerset	--	9	--	--	--
Talbot	100.00%	18	0.03	96.94%	100.00%
Washington	97.46%	118	0.00	97.13%	97.78%
Wicomico	98.00%	100	0.00	97.63%	98.37%
Worcester	96.77%	31	0.02	95.03%	98.52%

Exhibit 3.4 displays 2016-17 results for Indicator 4c (early intervention services have helped me or my family understand my child's special needs) by local jurisdiction and statewide. Data for Somerset County are omitted because there are fewer than 10 respondents. Jurisdictions with 100% agreement include Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, and Talbot Counties.

Exhibit 3.4: 2016-17 Estimates for Part C Indicator 4c

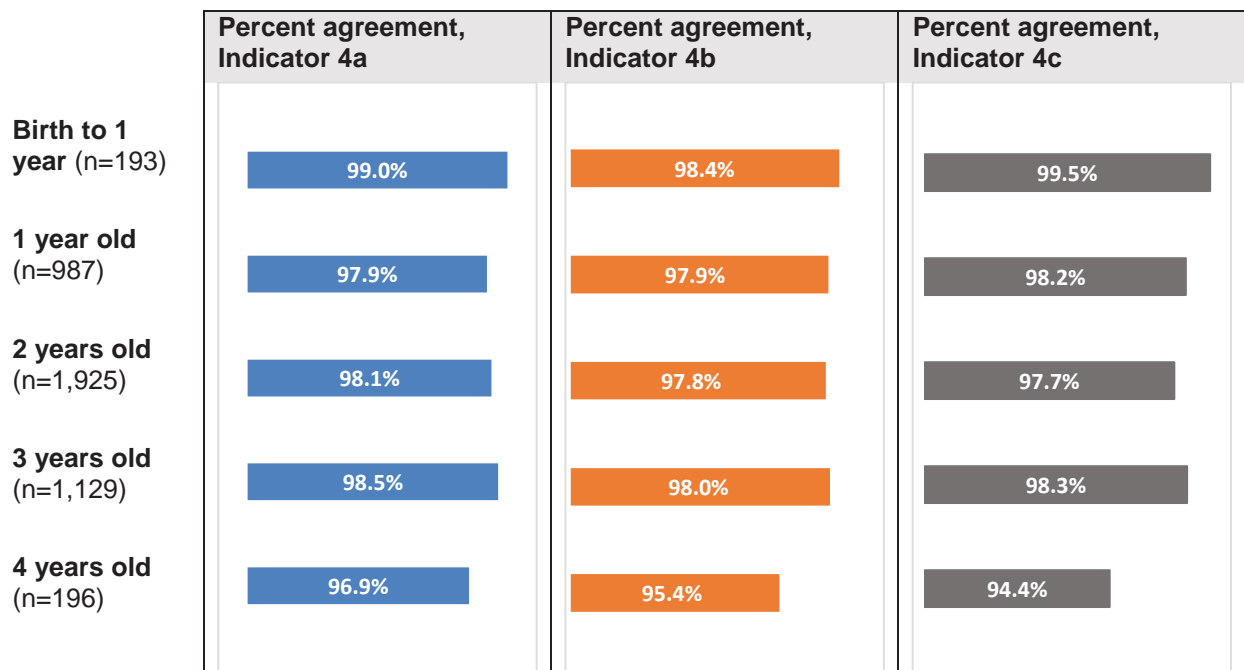
Jurisdiction	% Agreement	N	Indicator 4c Std. error	Lower CI	Upper CI
Statewide	97.88%	4,525	0.00	97.87%	97.88%
Allegany	98.73%	79	0.00	98.28%	99.19%
Anne Arundel	97.53%	446	0.00	97.46%	97.61%
Baltimore City	97.44%	273	0.00	97.31%	97.56%
Baltimore County	97.68%	691	0.00	97.64%	97.73%
Calvert	97.87%	94	0.00	97.47%	98.28%
Caroline	100.00%	27	0.02	98.26%	100.00%
Carroll	97.22%	72	0.01	96.62%	97.82%
Cecil	98.51%	67	0.01	97.93%	99.09%
Charles	98.15%	54	0.01	97.36%	98.94%
Dorchester	100.00%	50	0.01	99.28%	100.00%
Frederick	97.11%	173	0.00	96.89%	97.33%
Garrett	96.88%	32	0.02	95.21%	98.54%
Harford	96.70%	182	0.00	96.49%	96.92%
Howard	97.56%	123	0.00	97.25%	97.87%
Kent	100.00%	21	0.02	97.53%	100.00%
Montgomery	98.03%	915	0.00	98.00%	98.06%
Prince George's	98.10%	791	0.00	98.07%	98.14%
Queen Anne's	100.00%	31	0.01	98.57%	100.00%
Saint Mary's	98.26%	115	0.00	97.96%	98.56%
Somerset	--	9	--	--	--
Talbot	100.00%	19	0.03	97.16%	100.00%
Washington	97.44%	117	0.00	97.11%	97.77%
Wicomico	99.01%	101	0.00	98.69%	99.33%
Worcester	96.88%	32	0.02	95.21%	98.54%

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 younger children consistently express higher levels of agreement compared to families of older children. Families of children 4 years old, expressed slightly lower levels of agreement across all three indicators. The largest difference was just over 5 percent for Indicator 4c.

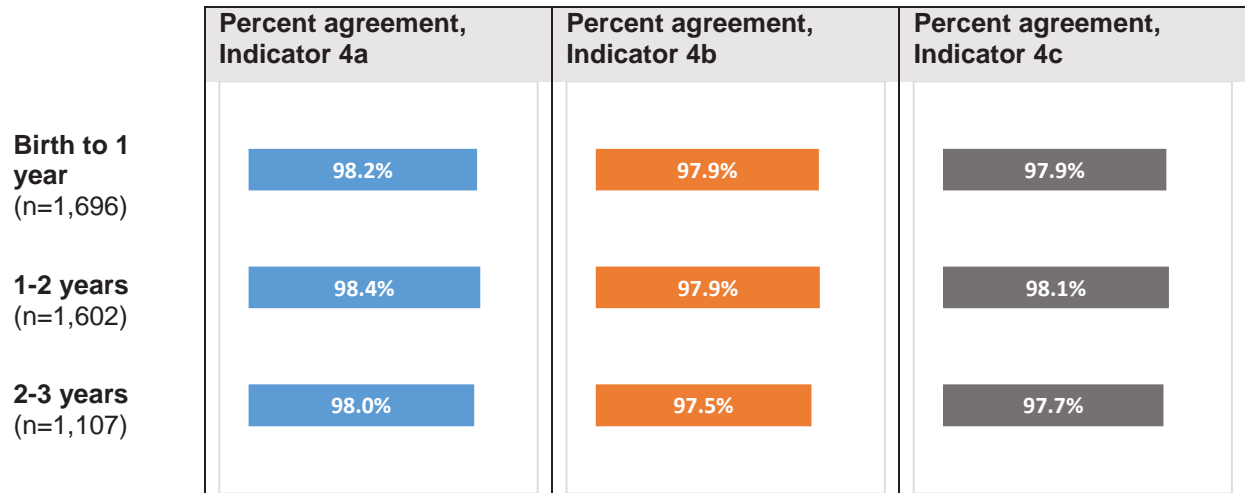
Exhibit 4.1: FFY 2016 Indicator 4 Results by Age of Child at Time of Survey Response



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 significant differences (less than 1 percentage point) in levels of agreement between families of children referred to early intervention services at younger ages and families of children referred to the program at later ages.

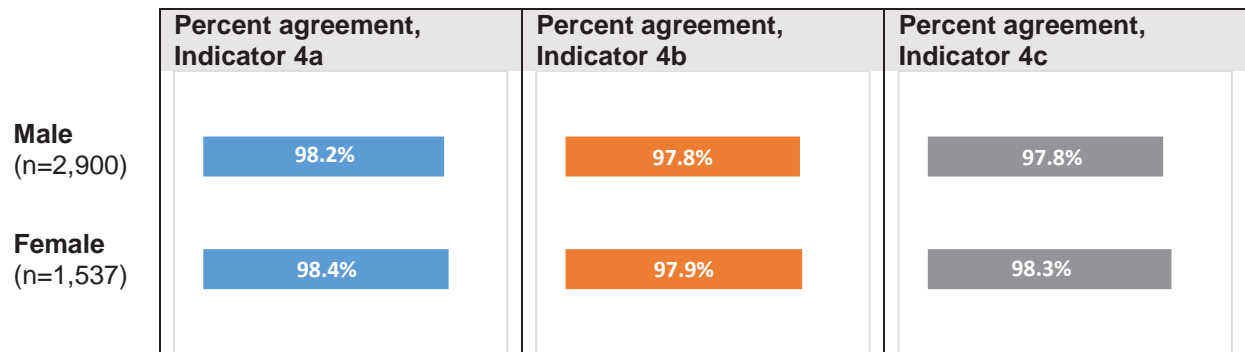
Exhibit 4.2: FFY 2016 Indicator 4 Results by Age of Child at Referral



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

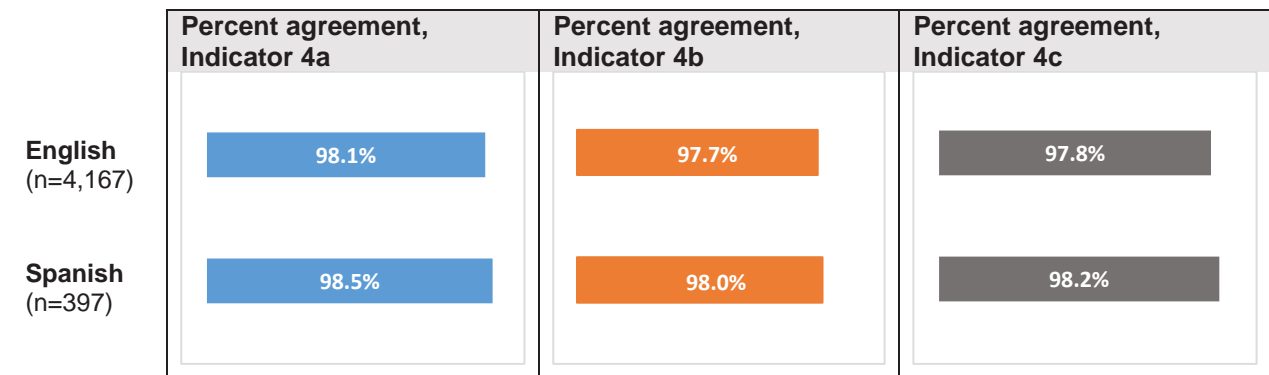
Exhibit 4.3: FFY 2016 Indicator 4 Results by Gender of Child



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 was little difference in agreement (less than 1 percentage point) between families who responded to the survey in English and families who responded to the survey in Spanish.

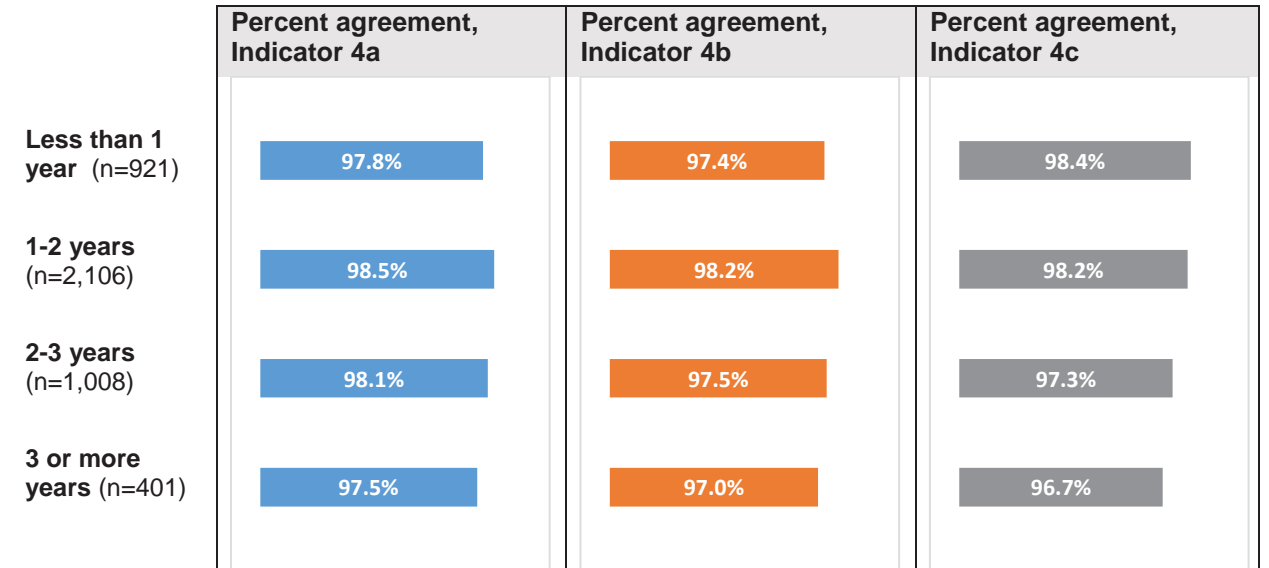
Exhibit 4.4: FFY 2016 Indicator 4 Results by Survey Language



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. In this year’s survey, families of children who had been in early intervention for less time did not consistently express higher levels of agreement compared to families of children who had been in the program for longer. For Indicators 4a and 4b, those with 1-2 years in Part C had the highest level of agreement, although these differences were generally less than 1 percentage point. For Indicator 4c those with less than 1 year in Part C expressed the highest level of agreement, and the biggest difference was with those with 3 or more years (1.7 percentage points).

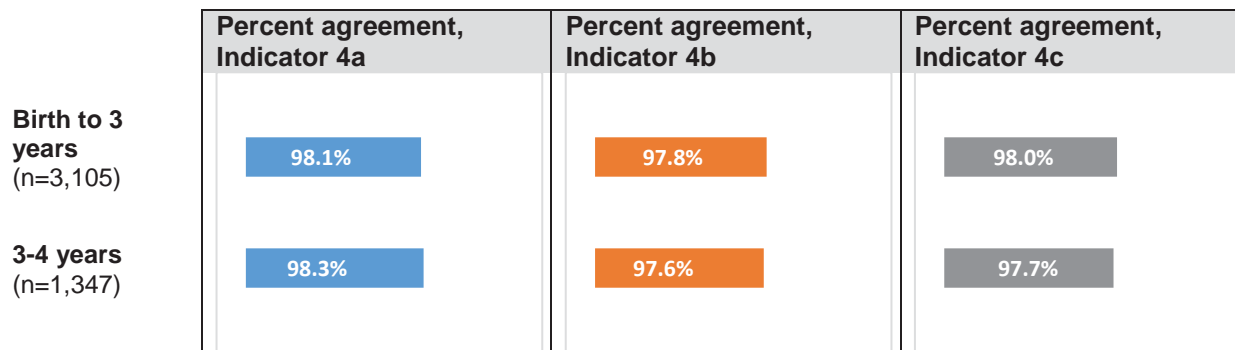
Exhibit 4.5: FFY 2016 Indicator 4 Results by Length of Time in Part C



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 ages three to four years. Families with children ages three and four years are eligible to receive services through the Extended IFSP option. Across each of the indicators, there wasn't any significant difference (less than 1 percent).

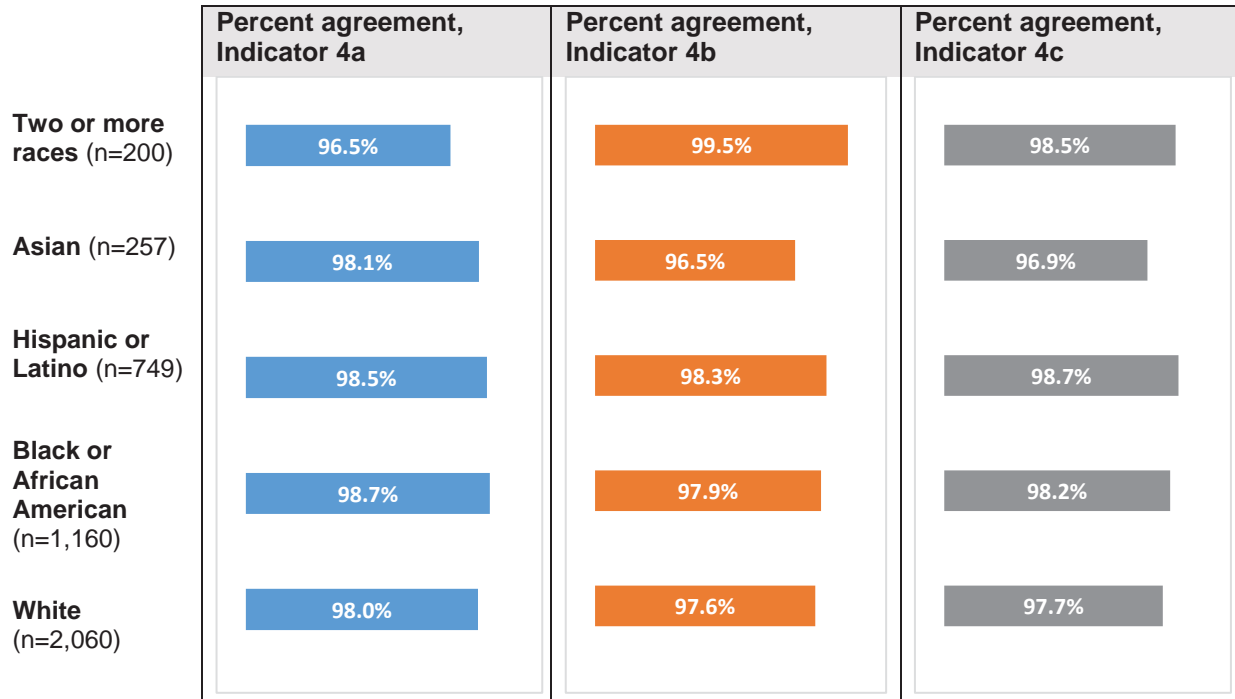
Exhibit 4.6: FFY 2016 Indicator 4 Results by Extended IFSP Option



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 White and Asian children expressed high levels of agreement on Indicator 4a, but had generally low levels of agreement compared to other groups on Indicators 4b and 4c. Aside from this pattern, different groups scored the highest on each indicator: Black on 4a, two or more races on 4b, and Hispanic on 4c. However, the differences among them were generally less than 2 percentage points.

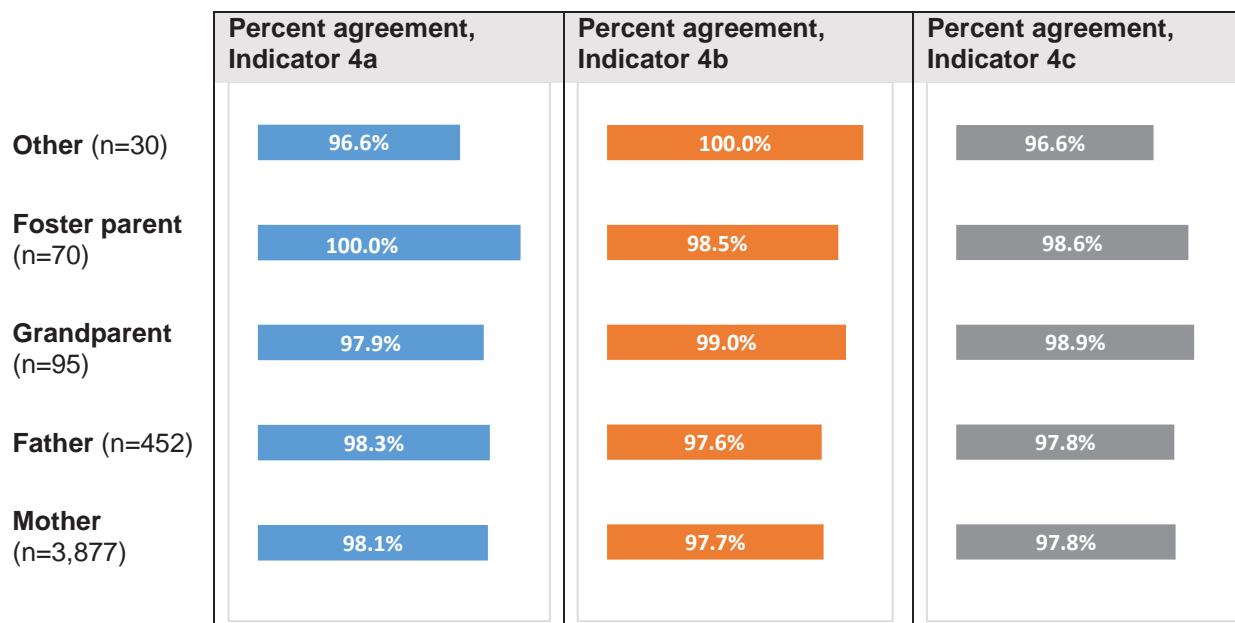
Exhibit 4.7: FFY 2016 Indicator 4 Results by Race/Ethnicity of Families Responding



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: Foster parents expressed the highest overall agreement across the indicators (averaging 99%). Overall, “other” respondents had among the lowest levels of agreement for Indicators 4a and 4c but the highest agreement for 4b. Among the remaining respondents (grandparents, fathers, and mothers), there was no significant differences in level of agreement (less than 2 percentage points), across all indicators.

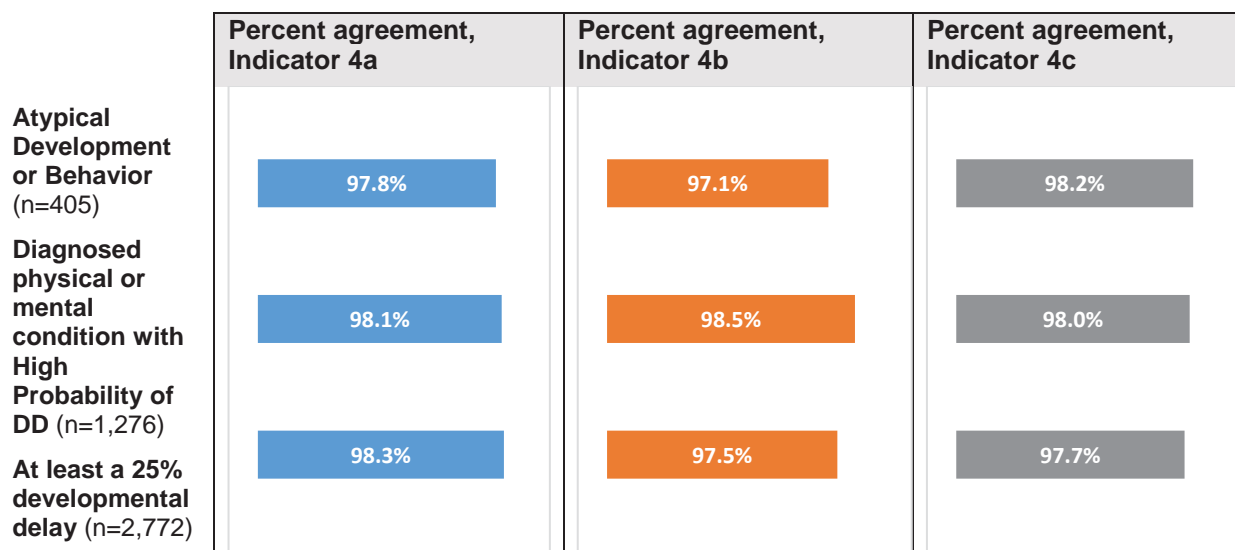
Exhibit 4.8: FFY 2016 Indicator 4 Results by Relationship of Respondent to the Child



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, there is little difference noted by eligibility category for Indicators 4a and 4b (0.5 percentage point or less). Those with at least a 25% developmental delay had the highest level of agreement for 4a; those with atypical development of behavior had the highest level of agreement for 4c. Families of children with a high probability of developmental delay had the highest agreement on Indicator 4b but differences with the other categories were low (less than 1.5 percentage points).

Exhibit 4.9: FFY 2016 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. Statewide, every item on the survey was answered by at least 94% of respondents, including 14 items for which at least 97% of respondents provided an answer.

Exhibit 5.1 illustrated 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 21 items where at least 95% of respondents agreed. The statement with the highest percentage of agreement (99%) 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.” Questions 19-22 achieved high levels of agreement (at least 97.9%), and relate to knowing about child rights, needs, and doing things which are helping one’s child.

Statements with the smaller percentages of agreement were less specific and related to activities, services, and family needs. The statement with the lowest percentage of agreement (93%) 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.	4,459	1.6%	<1%	5.2%	30.7%	20.2%	41.6%	92.6%
4. know about services in the community.	4,548	1.0%	<1%	3.8%	27.9%	23.7%	43.1%	94.7%
5. know where to go for support to meet my child’s needs.	4,594	<1%	<1%	2.5%	24.3%	24.0%	48.1%	96.5%
6. know where to go for support to meet my family’s needs.	4,514	<1%	<1%	4.8%	28.4%	22.3%	43.4%	94.1%
7. get the services that my child and family need.	4,618	<1%	<1%	1.6%	20.4%	22.5%	54.5%	97.5%
8. feel more confident in my skills as a parent.	4,615	<1%	<1%	1.7%	20.3%	24.1%	53.0%	97.4%
9. make changes in family routines that will benefit my child with special needs.	4,487	<1%	<1%	2.5%	21.3%	24.9%	50.5%	96.7%
10. be more effective in managing my child’s behavior.	4,458	<1%	<1%	3.2%	25.0%	25.2%	45.5%	95.7%
11. do activities that are good for my child even in times of stress.	4,516	<1%	<1%	2.5%	24.8%	24.8%	46.9%	96.6%
12. feel that I can get the services and supports that my child and family need.	4,611	<1%	<1%	1.6%	20.9%	23.7%	52.9%	97.5%
13. understand how the early intervention system works.	4,635	<1%	<1%	<1%	20.6%	23.4%	54.2%	98.3%
14. be able to evaluate how much progress my child is making.	4,627	<1%	<1%	1.2%	18.2%	24.4%	55.5%	98.1%
15. feel that my child will be accepted and welcomed in the community.	4,507	<1%	<1%	1.5%	20.8%	21.8%	55.1%	97.7%

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
16. feel that my family will be accepted and welcomed in the community.	4,457	<1%	<1%	1.6%	21.5%	21.8%	54.5%	97.7%
17. communicate more effectively with the people who work with my child and family. (4b)	4,559	<1%	<1%	1.5%	19.8%	24.1%	53.8%	97.7%
18. understand the roles of the people who work with my child and family.	4,589	<1%	<1%	1.0%	19.5%	23.9%	54.9%	98.3%
19. know about my child's and family's rights concerning early intervention services. (4a)	4,608	<1%	<1%	1.1%	20.5%	22.9%	54.7%	98.2%
20. do things with and for my child that are good for my child's development.	4,628	<1%	<1%	<1%	15.2%	21.8%	62.0%	99.0%
21. understand my child's special needs. (4c)	4,525	<1%	<1%	1.4%	18.3%	21.9%	57.7%	97.9%
22. feel that my efforts are helping my child.	4,614	<1%	<1%	<1%	15.6%	22.7%	60.1%	98.4%
23. figure out solutions to problems as they come up.	4,566	<1%	<1%	1.6%	19.7%	25.0%	52.9%	97.6%
24. feel that I can handle the challenges of parenting a child with special needs.	4,430	<1%	<1%	1.6%	20.8%	24.1%	52.0%	96.9%
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*	1,660	<1%	<1%	1.2%	18.6%	20.6%	58.6%	97.8%
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).*	1,600	1.0%	<1%	2.4%	19.9%	18.9%	57.6%	96.4%

*Note: Respondents were instructed to complete 25 and 26 if their child turned three years old before July 1st, 2017 and their family continues to receive early intervention services through an IFSP. State-provided demographic data were used to exclude inappropriate respondents (families whose child was not age three by the July 1st, 2017 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 2016.

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.

The survey response rate has also improved with time. 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 45.6%. It should be noted that the surveys conducted in FFY 2015 and FFY 2016 both achieved the same response rate of 46.0%. The response rates have remained at 40 percent or greater for over eight years, which shows consistency in the data collection methods.

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%

* 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 2010-16, 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 11.2 percentage points above the state target, for Indicator 4b it is 12.1 percentage points above the state target, while for 4c, the actual percentage agreement value is 7.4 percentage points higher than the target.

