



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

2017-2018

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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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1. Introduction

ICF was contracted by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to administer its annual Part C Indicator 4 Family Survey for 2017-18. 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 2017-18. The Survey was launched in mid-September and closed in mid-November.

As in prior years, the 2017-18 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 2017-18; a total of 10,625 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. 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 were maintained for parents for the duration of the survey.

Response rate reports were submitted to MSDE at three points during the survey window: October 18, October 30, and November 15, 2018. The last surveys to be included in this report arrived at ICF’s office on November 21, 2018.

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 10,625 surveys were distributed to families. In total 3,803¹ completed surveys were returned – resulting in an adjusted response rate² of 36.0% (which is down 9.8 percentage points from last year). Unfortunately, while Garrett County collected 27 surveys back from their parents and mailed them to ICF, only 4 surveys were received and could be included in the analysis. Garrett County would have achieved a response rate of 96.4%. Three jurisdictions achieved an adjusted response rate of at least 70%, and 13 jurisdictions (54.0% of all local jurisdictions) achieved a response rate of at least 40%. The jurisdictions with the highest adjusted response rates (above 70%) were:

- Wicomico (91.0%)
- Allegany County (72.9%)
- Caroline County (70.6%)

Response rate data by county is presented in Exhibit 1.1. Carroll County achieved the lowest response rate this year, 23%, with 61 returned surveys, of which were 56 were completed on paper and 5 were completed on line.

Statewide, 3,467 surveys were completed in English (91.2%) and 336 surveys were completed in Spanish (8.8%). In 7 of the 24 jurisdictions, there were no surveys completed in Spanish. Paper surveys were much more common than online surveys. Overall, 3,624 paper surveys were completed (95.2% of all surveys), while 179 surveys were completed online. Out of the 179 online surveys, 64 were completed in Prince George's County.

A total of 129 surveys (1.2%) were undeliverable because the addresses were out of date or inaccurate. The jurisdictions with the highest percentage of undeliverable surveys (more than 3%) were:

- Kent County (n=1; 3.4% undeliverable)
- Washington County (n=7; 3.1% undeliverable)

¹ This total does not include the 23 surveys lost in the mail from Garrett County.

² 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	10,625	3,803	3,291	176	333	3	129	36.2%
Allegany	96	70	67	3	-	-	-	72.9%
Anne Arundel	1,236	323	305	2	16	-	2	26.2%
Baltimore City	1,162	375	337	-	38	-	9	32.5%
Baltimore County	1,485	393	378	-	15	-	17	26.8%
Calvert	209	86	85	1	-	-	1	41.3%
Caroline	51	36	29	3	4	-	-	70.6%
Carroll	268	61	56	5	-	-	3	23.0%
Cecil	193	67	64	-	3	-	5	35.6%
Charles	241	79	45	31	3	-	2	33.1%
Dorchester	47	28	28	-	-	-	1	60.9%
Frederick	399	136	99	35	2	-	5	34.5%
Garrett	28	4**	4**	-	-	-	-	14.3%**
Harford	532	160	155	2	3	-	16	31.0%
Howard	470	128	124	1	3	-	12	27.9%
Kent	29	17	15	-	2	-	1	60.7%
Montgomery	1,898	744	612	26	106	-	25	39.7%
Prince George's	1,468	679	499	61	116	3	19	46.9%
Queen Anne's	76	38	34	3	1	-	-	50.0%
St. Mary's	212	69	68	-	1	-	1	32.7%
Somerset	21	12	12	-	-	-	-	57.1%
Talbot	79	31	22	-	9	-	2	40.3%
Washington	225	104	98	-	6	-	7	47.7%
Wicomico	123	111	106	1	4	-	1	91.0%
Worcester	77	34	34	-	-	-	-	44.2%
Unknown*	-	18	15	2	1	-	-	N/A

***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.

**Garrett County collected 27 paper survey surveys from parents, however 23 were lost in the mail, and only 4 were received by ICF and were available for analysis. All analysis for Garrett County is based on the four received surveys. Had the 27 surveys been received, Garrett County's response rate would have been 96.4%

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 3,686 respondents answered this question. Of the respondents who answered this question, 76.6% (n=2,822) indicated that their children had been referred to MITP between birth and age two, while 23.4% (n=864) 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 (64.0%, n=2,424), while 1,362 of the respondent's children receiving services were female (36.0%). Respondents were asked to classify their relationship to the child receiving early intervention services (n=3,720). Overwhelmingly, mothers completed the survey (87.0%), followed by fathers (8.4%). Foster parents, grandparents and others accounted for the remaining 4.6% 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 2018 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 (42.8%) and Black or African-American children (28.1%). 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=10,625)		Respondents (N=3,803)		Over (Under) Representation
	N	%	N	%	
Race/Ethnicity					
White	4,564	43.0%	1,628	42.8%	-0.2
Black or African-American	3,048	28.7%	1,069	28.1%	-0.6
Hispanic or Latino	1,835	17.3%	663	17.4%	+0.2
Multi-racial	645	6.1%	207	5.4%	-0.6
Asian	518	4.9%	161	4.2%	-0.6
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	7	0.1%	3	0.1%	-
American Indian/Alaskan Native	8	0.1%	2	0.1%	-
Unknown*	-	-	71	1.9%	-

*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 66.7% of the population reporting this disability. The second most common exceptionality or disability statewide is a physical or mental condition with likely developmental delay (24.6% of the population). The third category of exceptionalities, atypical development or behavior, constitutes 8.7% 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, however none of the groups reached the 3% threshold, meaning 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=10,625)		Respondents (N=3,803)		Over (Under) Representation
	N	% [†]	N	% [†]	
At Least 25% Developmental Delay (DD)	7,091	66.7%	2,463	64.8%	-1.9
Diagnosed Physical or Mental Condition with High Probability of Developmental Delay (DD)	2,613	24.6%	1,008	26.5%	+1.9
Atypical Development or Behavior (AD/B)	921	8.7%	308	8.1%	-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 overrepresented, while survey respondents from Anne Arundel and Baltimore County are underrepresented in the sample by more than 3%.

Exhibit 2.3: 2017-18 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	1,465	13.8%	679	17.9%	+4.0
Wicomico	123	1.2%	111	2.9%	+1.7
Montgomery	1,902	17.9%	744	19.6%	+1.7
Allegany	95	0.9%	70	1.8%	+0.9
Washington	226	2.1%	104	2.7%	+0.6
Caroline	51	0.5%	36	1.0%	+0.5
Queen Anne's	74	0.7%	38	1.0%	+0.3
Calvert	209	2.0%	86	2.3%	+0.3
Dorchester	47	0.4%	28	0.7%	+0.3
Kent	29	0.3%	17	0.5%	+0.2
Worcester	77	0.7%	34	0.9%	+0.2
Somerset	21	0.2%	12	0.3%	+0.1
Talbot	79	0.7%	31	0.8%	+0.1
Cecil	194	1.8%	67	1.8%	-
Garrett	29	0.3%	4	0.1%	-0.2
Frederick	399	3.8%	136	3.6%	-0.2
Saint Mary's	213	2.0%	69	1.8%	-0.2
Charles	243	2.3%	79	2.1%	-0.2
Harford	532	5.0%	160	4.2%	-0.8
Carroll	271	2.6%	61	1.6%	-0.9
Howard	468	4.4%	128	3.4%	-1.0
Baltimore City	1,156	10.9%	375	9.9%	-1.0
Anne Arundel	1,230	11.6%	323	8.5%	-3.1
Baltimore County	1,491	14.0%	393	10.3%	-3.7

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

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

Note: * This n represents the number of respondents eligible for services in the entire population, and is different than the number of participants that the survey was mailed out to in exhibit 1.1, as in some cases bad addresses for survey participants were identified prior to the mailing of the survey.

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 2017-18 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: 2017-18 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	97.91% (=3,659/3,737)	85.0%
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	98.05% (=3,617/3,689)	83.4%
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	98.31% (=3,602/3,664)	90.0%

Exhibit 3.2 displays the 2017-18 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 Garrett County are omitted because there are fewer than 10 surveys available for analysis. Jurisdictions with 100% agreement include Allegany, Caroline, Carroll, Cecil, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Saint Mary's, Somerset, Talbot and Worcester counties.

Exhibit 3.2: 2017-18 Estimates for Part C Indicator 4a

Jurisdiction	% Agreement	N	Indicator 4a Std. error	Lower CI*	Upper CI*
Statewide	97.91%	3,737	0.00	97.91%	97.92%
Allegany	100.00%	70	0.00	99.56%	100.00%
Anne Arundel	97.10%	310	0.00	96.98%	97.21%
Baltimore City	97.04%	371	0.00	96.94%	97.13%
Baltimore County	98.97%	388	0.00	98.91%	99.03%
Calvert	97.65%	85	0.00	97.18%	98.12%
Caroline	100.00%	36	0.01	98.85%	100.00%
Carroll	100.00%	61	0.01	99.46%	100.00%
Cecil	100.00%	65	0.00	99.51%	100.00%
Charles	97.44%	78	0.01	96.90%	97.97%
Dorchester	100.00%	28	0.02	98.35%	100.00%
Frederick	99.25%	133	0.00	99.04%	99.46%
Garrett	-	3	-	-	-
Harford	93.13%	160	0.00	92.80%	93.45%
Howard	95.93%	123	0.00	95.57%	96.30%
Kent	100.00%	17	0.03	96.70%	100.00%
Montgomery	97.94%	729	0.00	97.90%	97.98%
Prince George's	97.89%	665	0.00	97.85%	97.94%
Queen Anne's	100.00%	38	0.01	98.93%	100.00%
Saint Mary's	100.00%	69	0.00	99.55%	100.00%
Somerset	100.00%	12	0.05	94.72%	100.00%
Talbot	100.00%	30	0.01	98.50%	100.00%
Washington	98.06%	103	0.00	97.70%	98.41%
Wicomico	99.09%	110	0.00	98.81%	99.37%
Worcester	100.00%	34	0.01	98.75%	100.00%

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

Exhibit 3.3 displays 2017-18 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 Garrett County are omitted because there are fewer than 10 respondents who answered this question. Jurisdictions with 100% agreement include Allegany, Dorchester, Howard and Somerset counties.

Exhibit 3.3: 2017-18 Estimates for Part C Indicator 4b

Jurisdiction	% Agreement	N	Indicator 4b Std. error	Lower CI*	Upper CI*
Statewide	98.05%	3,689	0.00	98.04%	98.06%
Allegany	100.00%	70	0.00	99.56%	100.00%
Anne Arundel	97.34%	301	0.00	97.23%	97.46%
Baltimore City	98.66%	372	0.00	98.59%	98.73%
Baltimore County	98.96%	385	0.00	98.90%	99.02%
Calvert	98.81%	84	0.00	98.39%	99.23%
Caroline	94.12%	34	0.02	92.37%	95.87%
Carroll	96.55%	58	0.01	95.73%	97.37%
Cecil	96.92%	65	0.01	96.23%	97.62%
Charles	97.47%	79	0.01	96.94%	97.99%
Dorchester	100.00%	28	0.02	98.35%	100.00%
Frederick	99.22%	129	0.00	99.00%	99.45%
Garrett	-	4	-	-	-
Harford	97.44%	156	0.00	97.20%	97.67%
Howard	100.00%	121	0.00	99.80%	100.00%
Kent	94.12%	17	0.04	90.14%	98.10%
Montgomery	98.88%	716	0.00	98.85%	98.91%
Prince George's	96.99%	664	0.00	96.94%	97.04%
Queen Anne's	97.30%	37	0.01	95.94%	98.65%
Saint Mary's	98.46%	65	0.01	97.86%	99.07%
Somerset	100.00%	12	0.05	94.72%	100.00%
Talbot	96.67%	30	0.02	94.84%	98.49%
Washington	95.15%	103	0.00	94.68%	95.61%
Wicomico	99.09%	110	0.00	98.81%	99.37%
Worcester	96.67%	30	0.02	94.84%	98.49%

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

Exhibit 3.4 displays 2017-18 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 Garrett County are omitted because there are fewer than 10 respondents who responded to this question. Jurisdictions with 100% agreement include Allegany, Calvert, Caroline, Dorchester, Kent, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot and Washington counties.

Exhibit 3.4: 2017-18 Estimates for Part C Indicator 4c

Jurisdiction	% Agreement	N	Indicator 4c Std. error	Lower CI*	Upper CI*
Statewide	98.31%	3,664	0.00	98.30%	98.31%
Allegany	100.00%	70	0.00	99.56%	100.00%
Anne Arundel	97.34%	301	0.00	97.23%	97.46%
Baltimore City	98.38%	371	0.00	98.31%	98.46%
Baltimore County	98.45%	386	0.00	98.37%	98.52%
Calvert	100.00%	85	0.00	99.67%	100.00%
Caroline	100.00%	35	0.01	98.80%	100.00%
Carroll	96.55%	58	0.01	95.73%	97.37%
Cecil	98.41%	63	0.01	97.78%	99.04%
Charles	97.47%	79	0.01	96.94%	97.99%
Dorchester	100.00%	28	0.02	98.35%	100.00%
Frederick	97.64%	127	0.00	97.35%	97.93%
Garrett	-	4	-	-	-
Harford	97.40%	154	0.00	97.16%	97.64%
Howard	98.35%	121	0.00	98.07%	98.63%
Kent	100.00%	17	0.03	96.70%	100.00%
Montgomery	98.73%	708	0.00	98.69%	98.76%
Prince George's	97.73%	662	0.00	97.69%	97.78%
Queen Anne's	100.00%	35	0.01	98.80%	100.00%
Saint Mary's	98.46%	65	0.01	97.86%	99.07%
Somerset	100.00%	12	0.05	94.72%	100.00%
Talbot	100.00%	29	0.02	98.43%	100.00%
Washington	100.00%	101	0.00	99.74%	100.00%
Wicomico	99.07%	107	0.00	98.77%	99.36%
Worcester	96.30%	27	0.02	94.18%	98.41%

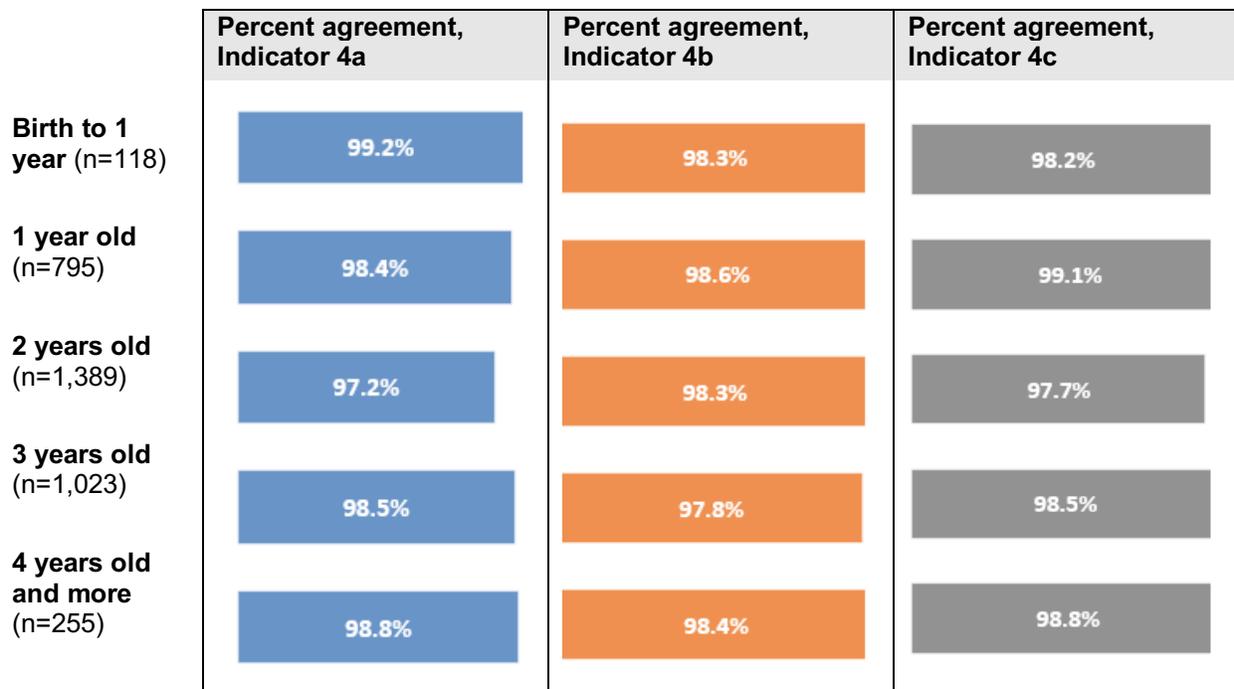
*Note: Confidence intervals are calculated at a 95% Confidence Level

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 younger children tend to show higher levels of agreement compared to families of older children. In few cases, however, are the differences very great. Families of children 1 year old expressed the highest levels of agreement across for two of the three indicators (4b and 4c). For Indicator 4a, families of children birth to 1 year had the highest level of agreement. The largest difference (just 2 percentage points) is for Indicator 4a, between parents of children birth to one year old and children 2 years old.

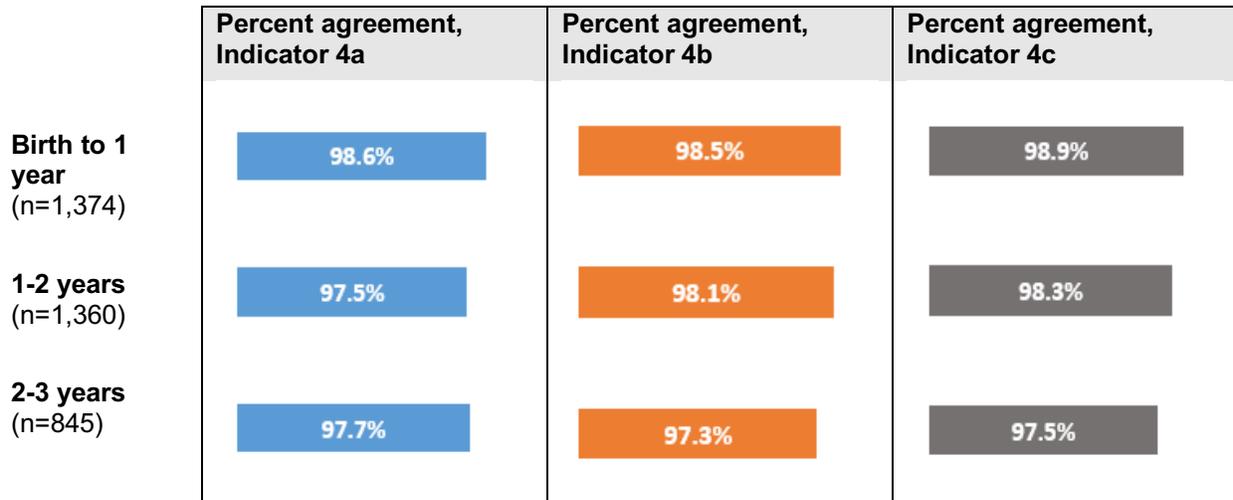
Exhibit 4.1: 2017-18 Indicator 4 Results by Age of Child at Time of Survey Response



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: Percentage of agreement on all three indicators was highest for families referred to early intervention services before age 1. There was a slight difference (less than 2 percentage points) in levels of agreement for Indicator 4b (1.2 percentage point) and for Indicator 4c (1.4) between families of children referred to early intervention services birth to 1 year and families of children referred to the program at 2-3 years.

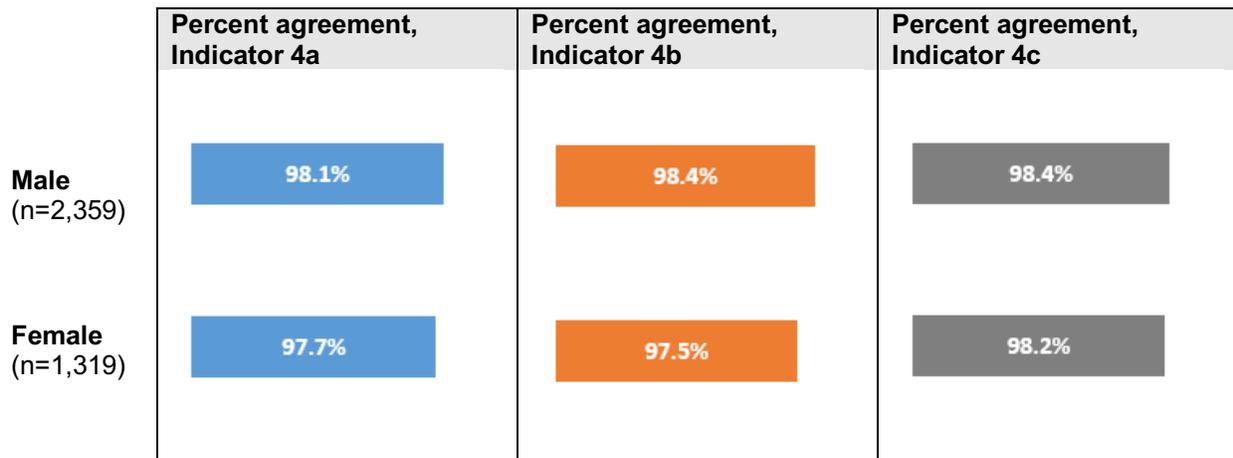
Exhibit 4.2: 2017-18 Indicator 4 Results by Age of Child at Referral



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.

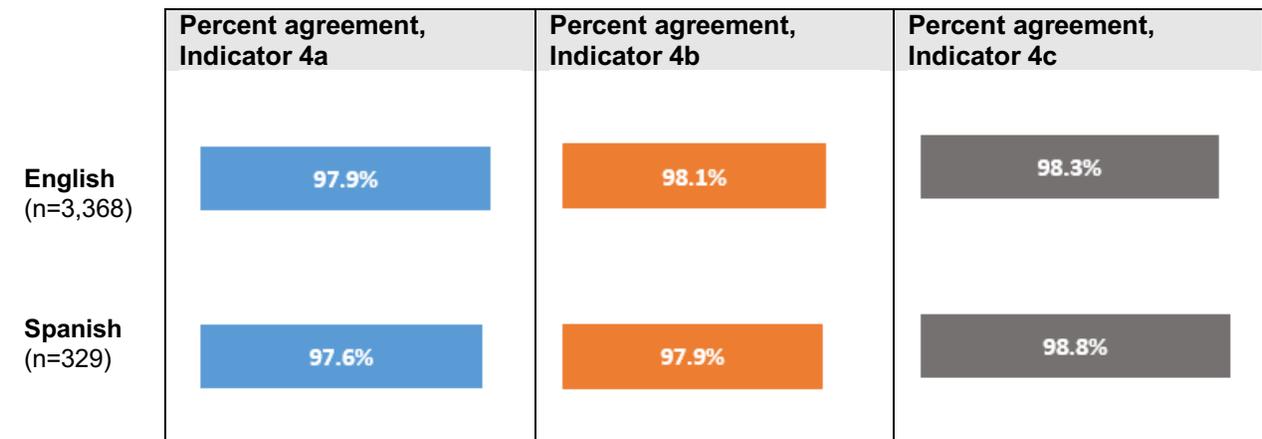
Exhibit 4.3: 2017-18 Indicator 4 Results by Gender of Child



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 .5 percentage point) between families who responded to the survey in English and families who responded to the survey in Spanish.

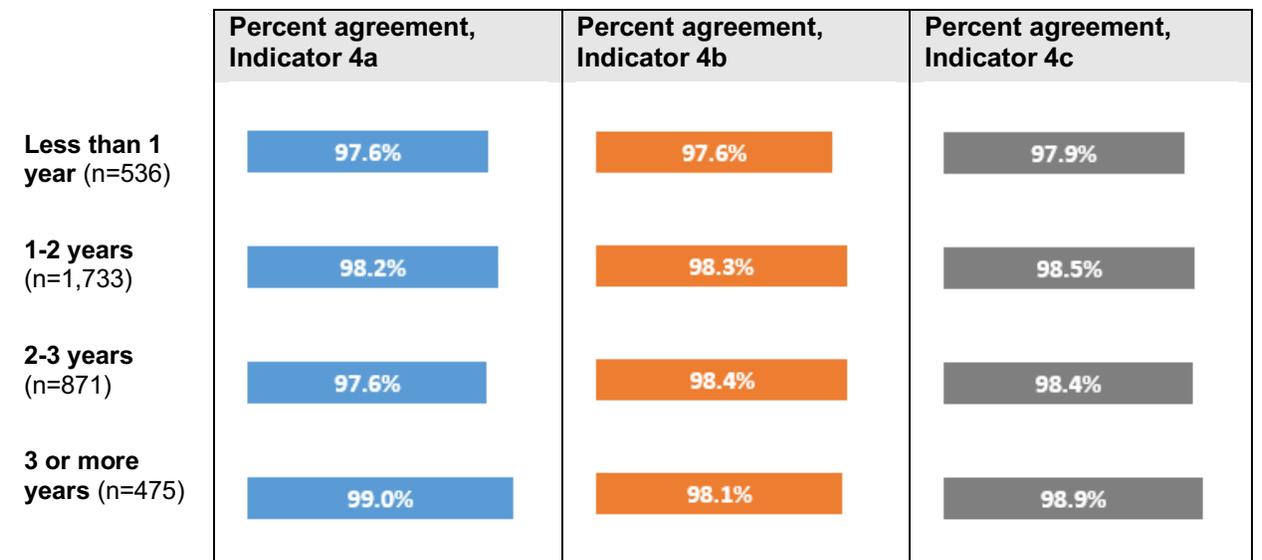
Exhibit 4.4: 2017-18 Indicator 4 Results by Survey Language



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 more time consistently indicated a higher rate of agreement than families that have been in the program for less than a year. None of the differences, however, were very large. The biggest difference (1.4 percentage points) was for Indicator 4a, between those families that had been in Part C for 3 or more years and those with less than 1 year or 2-3 years' time.

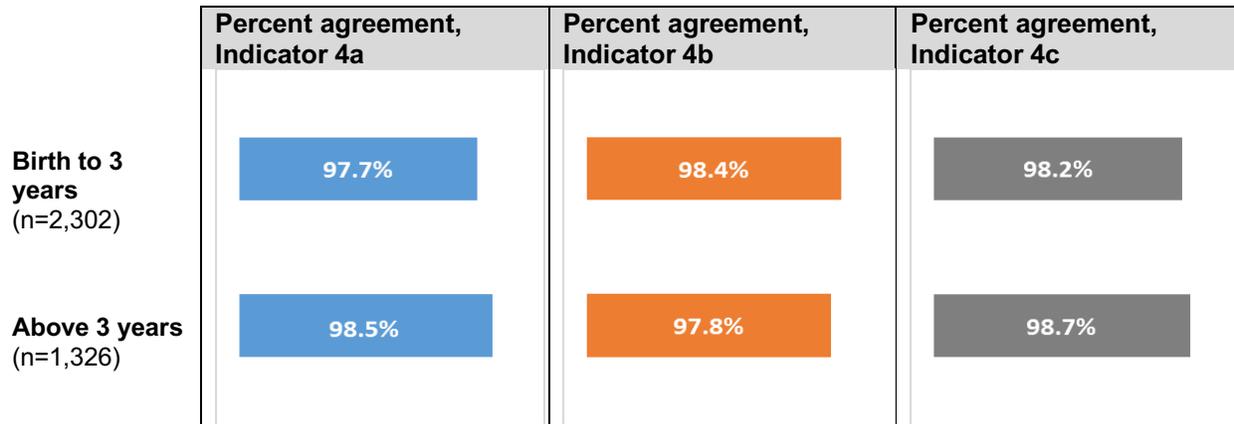
Exhibit 4.5: 2017-18 Indicator 4 Results by Length of Time in Part C



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. Across each of the indicators, the difference between these two groups was never greater than .8 percentage points (for Indicator 4a).

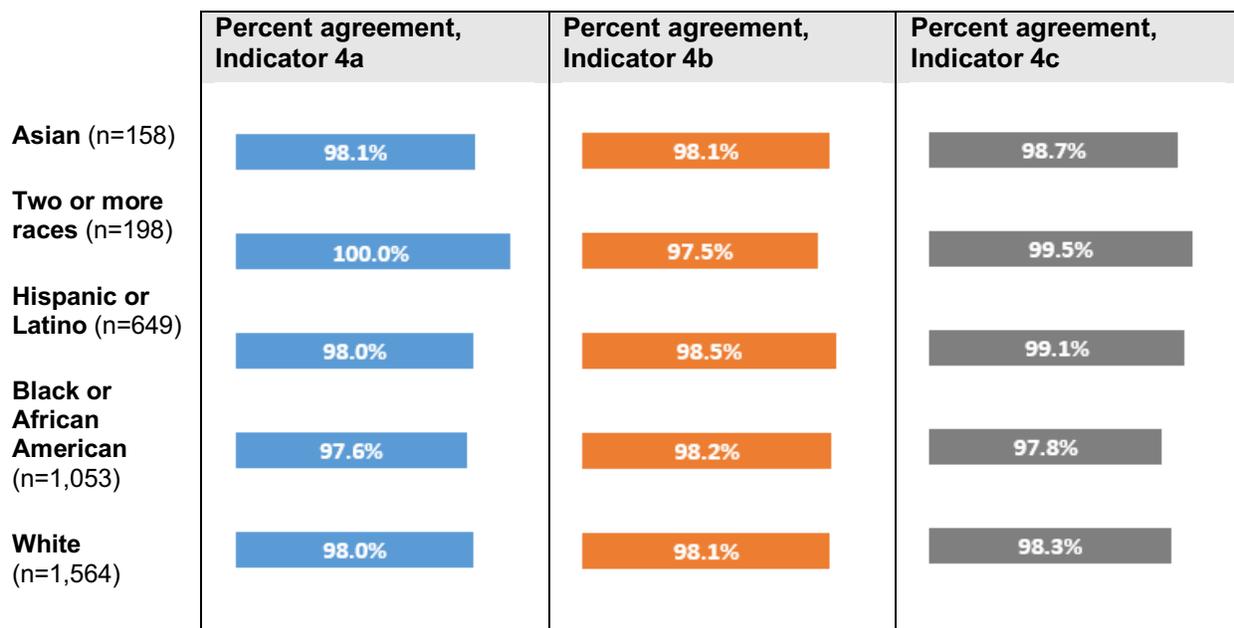
Exhibit 4.6: 2017-18 Indicator 4 Results by Extended IFSP Option



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: There were differing patterns of agreement to the indicators related to race/ethnicity, depending on the indicator. Indicators 4a and 4c showed the highest levels of agreement by those families of two or more races and the lowest levels of agreement for Black or African American families. However those differences were only 2.4 percentage points (4a) and 1.7 percentage points (4c). It also should be noted that the two or more races group was relatively small (< 200). There were very small differences in levels of agreement (.5 percentage points) for all three indicators between the two largest groups: Blacks and Whites. Participants of two or more races tended to rate Indicator 4b lower than other races/ethnicities but that level was only 1 percentage point different from the highest level of agreement (that by Hispanic/Latino families).

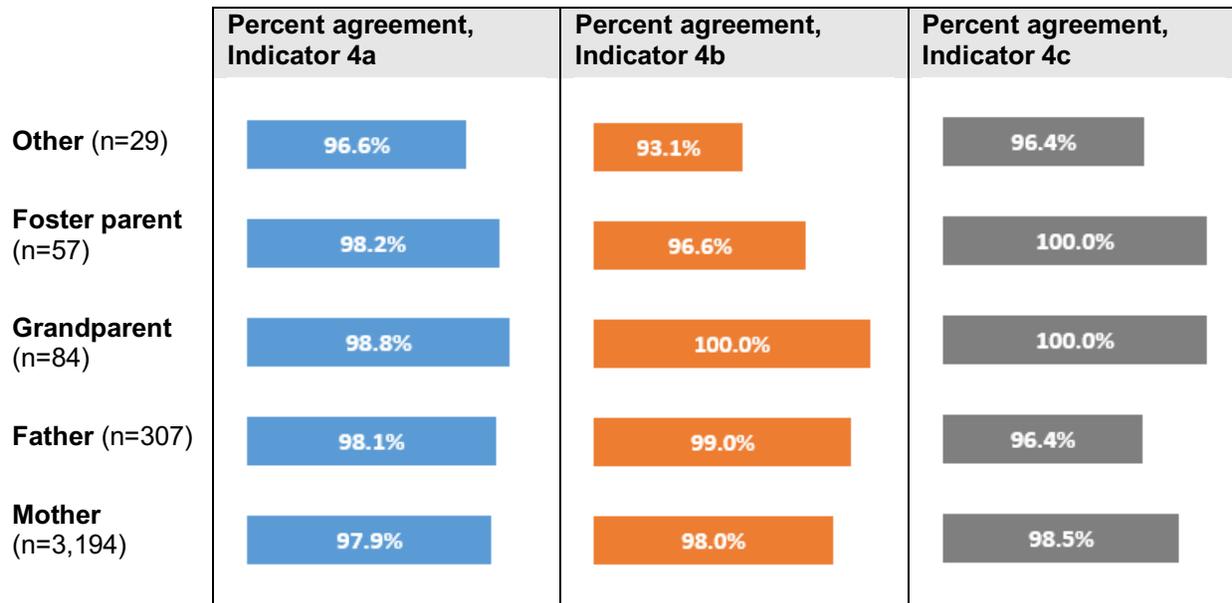
Exhibit 4.7: 2017-18 Indicator 4 Results by Race/Ethnicity of Families Responding



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: Grandparents expressed the highest overall agreement across the indicators (averaging 99.6%). Overall, “other” respondents had among the lowest levels of agreement across all indicators, but they were the smallest group (n=29). Among the largest groups of respondents (fathers and mothers), there was only a slight difference in level of agreement (less than 1 percentage point) for Indicators 4a and 4 b and a difference of 2.1 percentage points on Indicator 4c.

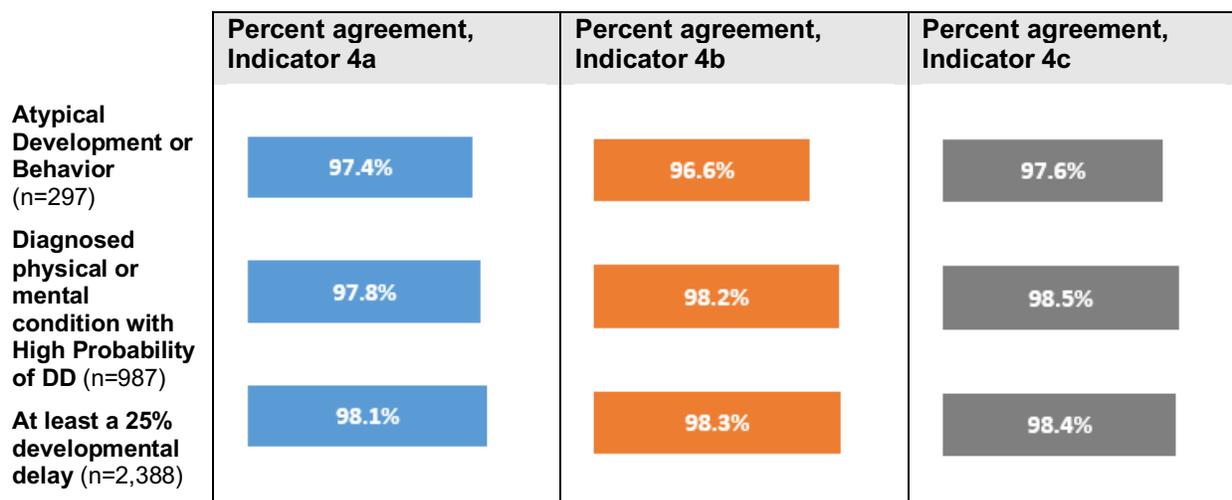
Exhibit 4.8: 2017-18 Indicator 4 Results by Relationship of Respondent to the Child



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 a developmental delay tended to rate Indicators 4a and 4b the highest and had the second highest rate for Indicator 4c. They were followed by parents of students with a physical or mental condition who rated Indicator 4c the highest out of all three groups, and had the second highest rate of agreement for Indicators 4a and 4b. Parents of students with Atypical Development or Behavior tended to consistently rate all three indicators the lowest.

Exhibit 4.9: 2017-18 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. 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 lowest percentage of agreement were less specific and related to activities, services, and family needs. The statement with the lowest percentage of agreement (93.1%) 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.	3,650	1.1%	0.7%	5.2%	30.7%	20.8%	41.5%	93.1%
4. know about services in the community.	3,715	0.8%	0.7%	3.8%	28.8%	24.4%	41.6%	94.8%
5. know where to go for support to meet my child’s needs.	3,726	0.8%	0.3%	2.5%	26.0%	25.4%	45.0%	96.4%
6. know where to go for support to meet my family’s needs.	3,673	0.7%	0.5%	5.1%	28.7%	24.0%	41.1%	93.8%
7. get the services that my child and family need.	3,742	0.5%	0.4%	1.5%	21.4%	24.3%	52.0%	97.7%
8. feel more confident in my skills as a parent.	3,751	0.5%	0.2%	1.8%	20.7%	26.1%	50.6%	97.4%
9. make changes in family routines that will benefit my child with special needs.	3,642	0.5%	0.3%	1.6%	21.7%	26.1%	49.7%	97.6%
10. be more effective in managing my child’s behavior.	3,634	0.6%	0.3%	2.8%	25.6%	26.1%	44.6%	96.2%
11. do activities that are good for my child even in times of stress.	3,646	0.5%	0.2%	2.4%	24.9%	26.5%	45.4%	96.9%
12. feel that I can get the services and supports that my child and family need.	3,736	0.5%	0.5%	1.9%	21.4%	24.3%	51.4%	97.1%
13. understand how the early intervention system works.	3,758	0.4%	0.4%	1.0%	22.1%	23.5%	52.6%	98.2%
14. be able to evaluate how much progress my child is making.	3,771	0.4%	0.2%	1.5%	19.2%	24.7%	54.0%	97.9%
15. feel that my child will be accepted and welcomed in the community.	3,653	0.4%	0.2%	1.7%	22.1%	23.0%	52.6%	97.6%

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.	3,610	0.4%	0.2%	1.8%	23.5%	22.5%	51.6%	97.6%
17. communicate more effectively with the people who work with my child and family. (4b)	3,689	0.5%	0.1%	1.4%	21.6%	24.2%	52.3%	98.0%
18. understand the roles of the people who work with my child and family.	3,711	0.4%	0.2%	1.3%	20.7%	24.0%	53.5%	98.1%
19. know about my child's and family's rights concerning early intervention services. (4a)	3,737	0.3%	0.3%	1.5%	20.7%	23.7%	53.5%	97.9%
20. do things with and for my child that are good for my child's development.	3,770	0.4%	0.1%	0.5%	15.9%	22.2%	61.0%	99.0%
21. understand my child's special needs. (4c)	3,664	0.4%	0.2%	1.0%	18.9%	23.8%	55.7%	98.3%
22. feel that my efforts are helping my child.	3,760	0.3%	0.2%	1.0%	16.5%	23.2%	58.8%	98.6%
23. figure out solutions to problems as they come up.	3,702	0.3%	0.2%	1.5%	20.2%	25.3%	52.6%	98.1%
24. feel that I can handle the challenges of parenting a child with special needs.	3,590	0.4%	0.3%	1.5%	20.7%	24.3%	52.2%	97.2%
Parents completed the following questions if their child turned 3 years old before July 1, 2018 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*	1,371	0.9%	0.3%	1.4%	17.9%	21.1%	58.5%	97.4%
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).*	1,310	1.5%	0.3%	1.8%	20.0%	19.8%	56.6%	96.4%

*Note: State-provided demographic data were used to exclude inappropriate respondents (families whose child was not age three by the July 1st, 2018 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 2017.

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.

Whereas the survey rate has been improving steady over time, this was the first year with a significant decline in the response rate to the survey. 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. This year however, the response rate dropped 9.8% points, to its lowest rate since 2009.

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%

* 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 2010-17, 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 12.9 percentage points above the state target, for Indicator 4b it is 14.7 percentage points above the state target, while for 4c, the actual percentage agreement value is 8.3 percentage points higher than the target.

