Part C Exiting Data Notes

2020-21 Reporting Year

This document provides information or data notes on the ways in which states collected and reported data differently from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) data formats and instructions. In addition, the data notes provide explanations of substantial changes or other changes that data users may find notable or of interest in the data from the previous year.

**Alaska**

- Alaska experienced a Cyber Attack during this reporting period that restricted local program and state access to the Early Intervention (EI)/Infant Learning Program (ILP) database used for program reporting. Lack of access impacted the last six weeks entries of exiting information in the reporting period. Programs provided their end-of-year exiting data through alternative means and State EI/ILP hand reconciled the information to the best of their ability.

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* The percent of children in this category decreased. Increases were seen in the exit categories of "Moved out of state," "Withdrawn by Parent/Guardian," and "Attempts to contact unsuccessful." The state attributes these changes to parent choices made related to the COVID-19 Pandemic.
* The state cannot be sure why it saw an increase in families self-identifying as "Two or more races," but believes that programs are more clearly asking about multiple races and more families are beginning to value their diverse identities and are becoming more comfortable reporting them. Programs are beginning to enter this data more accurately in the state’s data system by selecting multiple races.

**Arizona**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* For the number for children exiting that identified as two or more races, the Lead Agency reviewed reports from the statewide data system and verified the accuracy of the data. The Lead Agency conducted additional analysis from the exiting data for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020. The data were likely impacted by the COVID-19 Pandemic and how race data were collected but not enough to be considered a statistically significant difference. The meaningful difference calculator from the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA Center) uses an accepted formula for determining statistical significance. The Lead Agency compared data from FFY 2020 to previous years using the ECTA Center’s meaningful difference calculator and identified no meaningful difference across the years for children exiting that identified as two or more races. Additionally, the Lead Agency analyzed each exiting category for children of two or more races and no meaningful differences were found between FFY 2020 and previous years. There were also no meaningful differences in the number of children identifying as two or more races that exited in each category compared to the total population of all children exiting.
* The change from FFY 2020 compared to FFY 2019 is likely due to the decrease in the overall number of children with Individualized Family Service Plans in the State due to safety recommendations made during the national and state emergencies of the COVID-19 pandemic. Fewer children with an Individualized Family Service Plan ultimately mean that fewer children will exit the program. While the COVID-19 Pandemic had some impact on the overall number of exits, it did not significantly contribute to either the overall number of children that exited or the number of children of two or more races exiting.
* The Lead Agency is collecting race demographics from exiting families when they complete a family survey. The Lead Agency has observed that some families have provided different race demographics in their initial report and upon exit. The Lead Agency continues to monitor for significant changes in racial demographics to identify meaningful differences and impacts to the data. While there was some impact from families changing the way they identified their children’s race over time, it did not significantly contribute to the overall number of children that exited or the number of children of two or more races who exited during FFY 2020.

**Arkansas**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* The continued increase in “Attempts to contact unsuccessful” was due to the pandemic affecting families’ interest in the program, along with phone numbers changing and/or being disconnected.
* The increase of the children that were Part B eligible, Part C Exiting, is due to the increase in the number of children that have exited our program. The severity of delays in the children we serve has also increased.

**Colorado**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* Students are no longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age 3. Early Intervention Colorado does not redetermine Part C eligibility; rather, these children were recategorized as “withdrawal by parent (or guardian)”.
* Not eligible for Part B, exit with referrals to other programs: In SY 2020-21 EI Colorado updated training guidelines related to what constitutes a “referral to other programs”. Many local programs had previously incorrectly considered the referral to Part B as a “referral to other programs”. During the SY 2020-21 many early childhood programs were closed or only operating virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic and families often declined a referral to a virtual early childhood program.
* Not Eligible for Part B, exit with no referrals: In FFY 2019 EI Colorado updated training guidelines related to what constitutes a “referral”. Many local programs had previously incorrectly considered the referral to Part B as a “referral” even when a child was found not eligible. Therefore, additional referrals were not made. During SY 2020-21 many early childhood programs were closed or only operating virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic; families often declined a referral to a virtual early childhood program.
* Attempts to contact unsuccessful: In SY 2020-21 EI Colorado saw an increase in attempts to contact unsuccessful due to population migration during the pandemic for either personal or economic reasons. The EI Colorado program also sent fewer letters via conventional mail as staff worked remotely and relied more on technology-based attempts to contact families and caregivers which may have led to a decreased response rate.
* Two or more races: EI Colorado held a workgroup with a variety of stakeholders to discuss race and ethnicity reporting for EI Colorado. Information gathered from the workgroups and surveys conducted by the workgroup indicated that may families did not feel the federal race categories matched how the family self-identified. One topic the workgroup identified was that often families feel that giving a single race/ethnicity description for their child is insufficient. As a result of the workgroups feedback, EI Colorado made enhancements to the data system to allow for additional race sub-categories so family response could be captured in the same way they self-identify.

**Connecticut**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* During SY 2019-20 and SY 2020-21, the Public Health Emergency of COVID-19 affected Connecticut. Many families have had additional stressors leading to increased attrition in Part C supports. Connecticut has provided education and outreach to families and additional resources to prevent families from exiting under unable to contact.

**Delaware**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* Overall, Delaware saw an increase in children exiting from the previous year. COVID-19 played a large role in the difference in percentages for many areas. There was a decrease in children who exited the program by completion of goals prior to age three because parents chose to not continue with services unless they were able to be conducted face-to-face.
* An increase occurred in the number of children who turned three years old and were referred to other programs. This was due to parents choosing to stay with the program through the COVID-19 crisis and to accept resources for further assistance.
* Children exiting the program at age three with no referrals to other programs saw an increase due to parents wanting to remain with Part C until their child turned three; however, they were not interested in receiving resources until the situation with COVID-19 ended.
* Delaware saw an increase in parents identifying as Asian.
* Delaware saw a decrease in parents identifying as Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.
* Delaware saw an increase of parents identifying their children as more than one race.

**Florida**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* The decline in data for children’s eligibility determination for Part C prior to reaching age three and for children exiting Part C prior to Part B eligibility determination is a direct result of the national pandemic, COVID-19. This pandemic has forced many families to adopt new routines such as parents teleworking, older siblings learning remotely in virtual school, and most importantly, limited or stopped in-person services. These new practices were overwhelming for many families, and in many cases disrupted and/or created an inability to render Early Intervention services within the home. In addition, disruptions in service occurred when families had exposure to or tested positive for COVID-19, which required quarantines. Once under quarantine, many families either indefinitely suspended services or chose to terminate services entirely to safeguard against additional exposure. As reflected in the data, Florida’s overall child population for the program has decreased, and the conditions surrounding COVID-19 directly impacted the ability to complete eligibility determinations.

**Georgia**

- The data submitted reflects children that exited Part C for the 12 months period of 7/1/2019 to 6/30/2020. Georgia usually reports the exit data of the previous fiscal year because the most current data is usually still undergoing the internal review process.

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* No longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age 3: Georgia’s eligibility policy allows children to remain enrolled until age three despite meeting outcomes. However, children can exit before age three if outcomes are met and there are no additional developmental concerns. Upon exiting, the program will advise parents to contact their local program if additional concerns arise before the child is 3. Additionally, the number of children enrolled in the program decreased from the previous year as an effect of COVID-19, thus potentially reducing the number of children discharged prior to age 3.
* Part B Eligibility not determined: With the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic and quarantine mandates some children did not receive a Part B determination prior to age 3. The transition from in-person to virtual services and meetings created additional barriers as many families did not have access to the necessary technology to participate in the eligibility process. Local Education Agencies also faced additional challenges with scheduling and completing eligibility determinations.
* Moved out of state: Georgia usually serves a number of families that are transient and move frequently within and out of state which may impact the ability to contact them. However, for this reporting year the COVID-19 lockdown and travel restrictions that were in place in 2020 could have contributed to the decrease in the number of our families that moved out of state.

**Guam**

Guam's Part C exiting 12-month reporting period starts on December 2nd of a year and ends on December 1st of the following year. The exiting data is due prior to Guam's reporting period ending, which is why Guam has always submitted data for a complete reporting year. In this case the complete reporting year is 12/2/2019 to 12/1/2020.

**Hawaii**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Hawaii was unable to determine eligibility because the Battelle Developmental Inventory (BDI-2) could not be administered remotely. During that time, a 'partial' Multidisciplinary evaluation was conducted that did not include a standardized tool. Therefore, interim Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) were completed. Providers completed all components of the IFSP which exceeded the requirements of an Interim IFSP. Children's on-going eligibility could also not be determined prior to their Annual IFSP.
* Effective April 1, 2021, Hawaii began using the Developmental Assessment for Young Children, Edition 2 (DAYC-2) to administer the developmental evaluation portion of the MDE. For children found eligible, Initial IFSPs were developed to replace the Interim IFSPs previously developed. During the FFY 2020, a number of children exited the Part C system with Interim IFSPs.
* The FFY 2020 Revised Exit Total of 2003 is an increase from FFY 2019 which may be due to COVID-19 and families electing to not access services.
* No longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three: During the COVID-19 pandemic, Hawaii’s standardized tool (Battelle Developmental Inventory-2) was unable to be completed; therefore, children were presumed eligible as long as the team, including the family, expressed any concerns about the child’s development. Furthermore, some families opted to suspend receiving services during the COVID-19 pandemic which may have impacted children’s progress.
* Part B eligibility not determined: During the COVID-19 pandemic, while referrals continued from Part C to Part B, there may have been a delay in Part B determining eligibility as there were school closures during the initial 1 – 2 months of the pandemic.
* Moved out of state: During the COVID-19 pandemic, there may have been a decrease in families moving due to travel restrictions.
* Race Reported as Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander: The US Census Bureau 2010 Census Briefs, issued May 2012 on “The Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Population: 2010” states that this was the race group most likely to report multiple races in 2010. If this continued, it may explain the decrease in Native Hawaiian and Pacific Island category and an increase in the Two or More category.

**Illinois**

Illinois incorporated a new data element to collect information on families who exited due to COVID-19 (not a priority, concerns of personal health, too many unknowns right now, etc.).

**Indiana**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* Indiana launched a new statewide data system on March 8, 2021. Data provided is a combination of data from the previous data system and the new data system. Access issues for users and delayed training on usage of the new data system caused a delay in data entry statewide; however, all records are maintained on paper/pdf at the local office. Data quality reports were frequently run in the previous system (i.e., children over age 3 without exit reason) to ensure high quality data. This report as well as others (i.e., children with no activity against service authorizations for a period of time; children missing demographic information) are being developed to ensure high quality data is in the new system.
* Indiana’s newly launched data management system includes the collection of exiting data. The State believes this system change is the root cause of change in data. The State will continue to work with our new data system vendor and local programs to ensure that all children expected to exit (i.e., reached their 3rd birthday, are no longer eligible for Part C) are exited within the system. Additionally, training resources are being provided to the local programs about how to complete exiting information in the system and the importance of entering the information timely.

**Iowa**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* No longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three: With increased interruptions due to the COVID-19 pandemic, not as much progress was made during the reporting period; fewer children met their Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) outcomes.
* Part B eligible, exiting Part C: Iowa's Part C exiting count was lower this year compared to last year. Transition meetings not held were due to parent choice. With fewer meetings, there were fewer opportunities for potential eligibility discussions, as well as fewer opportunities to identify potentially eligible children. Part B also had a decline in Special Education total number.
* Not eligible for Part B, exit with no referrals: Parents were choosing to keep their current routine due to the pandemic. They continued with existing services and did not choose to participate in any new services.
* Part B eligibility not determined: With fewer meetings, there were fewer opportunities for potentially eligible children, as well as fewer opportunities to identify potentially eligible children.
* Moved out of state: Due to the economic uncertainty caused by the pandemic and the increase of virtual work, a decrease in the need to move was noticed.
* Attempts to contact unsuccessful: Iowa has experienced an increase in the percentage of Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) referrals during the pandemic. This type of referral tends to have a higher exiting percentage of families who exit as "Attempts to contact unsuccessful".

**Kansas**

- The Kansas Department of Health & Environment, Part C, and the Kansas State Department of Education, Part B, did not choose to implement the 'continuation of early intervention (Part C) services' until kindergarten entry as described in 20 U.S.C. 1432(5)(B)(ii) and 1435(c).

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* One local program greatly improved the number of referrals for children who were not eligible for Part B. This improvement - referring many more ineligible children to other programs - caused the Year-to-Year concern. This local program focused on identifying resources for which the children were eligible thereby connecting more families with resources.

**Kentucky**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* Data categories of attempts to contact, parent withdraw, moved, and Part B eligibility unknown significantly increased. From review of the case records, it appears the increases in these categories were a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Parents lost patience waiting for in-person services and moved their children to clinics that were open or just dropped out of Part C without notice. Schools were not evaluating children for eligibility in many situations. In addition to the children three and younger at exit, there were a number of children over age three that exited. These children were those whose exit was delayed by COVID-19 restrictions or received compensatory services.

**Louisiana**

- Louisiana Part C does not provide services to children after age 3.

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* The SY 2019-20 exit numbers were significantly impacted by COVID-19 resulting in a higher number of children exiting, plus up to Fall 2019, the state had the highest child count in the history of the program. With higher numbers, there are more exits as the children age out. These 2 factors impacted the differences between SY 2019-20 and SY 2020-21. The SY 2020-21 period had reduced referrals and fewer children eligible due to COVID-19.

**Maryland**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* Decrease in the number No Longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three: This is due to a decrease in the overall number of children served during the COVID-19 pandemic.
* Decrease in the number Not Eligible for Part B, exit with referrals to other programs: Infants & Toddlers Directors indicated that more parents of children not eligible for Part B at transition were not interested in having their children participate in community-based programs during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
* Decrease in the number Part B Eligibility not determined: More families wanted to participate in the Part B Eligibility process during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
* Decrease in the number Moved out of State: Fewer families chose to relocate during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

**Massachusetts**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* The decrease in the number of children under 'Completion of IFSP prior to reaching maximum age for Part C' is due, in part, to the suspension of the use of the Battelle Developmental Inventory-2 (BDI-2), the assessment tool used to identify children eligible for Early Intervention (EI) with a delay in development, during the time of the pandemic. The BDI-2 is not an assessment tool that can be used remotely. Children were deemed eligible using the other eligibility categories (established conditions, at risk for developmental delay, and clinical judgment) with an increase of children eligible under clinical judgment, resulting in fewer children deemed ineligible. Additionally, Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) were extended during the pandemic, allowing children to receive EI services for a longer period.
* The increase in the number of children under Part B eligibility not determined may be due to policy modifications implemented as a result of the pandemic to ensure uninterrupted services for children. Certain IFSPs were extended to provide continued services resulting in children receiving EI services for longer periods of time. Additionally, delays in LEA eligibility determination that occurred at the beginning of the reporting period as a result of the pandemic impacted this number.
* The increase in the number of children under 'Withdrawal by parent (or guardian)' and 'Attempts to contact the parent and/or child were unsuccessful' may be due to factors related to the pandemic. Sixteen of the hardest hit communities with COVID-19 cases in MA, according to the MA Department of Health (February 2021), were the same communities with the highest count of children under the exiting reason of 'Attempts to contact the parent and/or child were unsuccessful'. Multiple EI family surveys conducted during the pandemic point to the lack of technology, additional home responsibilities and dissatisfaction with EI services as some of the potential reasons for withdrawal from Part C services. The reason for the total count under gender not matching to the total count under race/ethnicity is due to Massachusetts adding an 'unassigned' category under gender as part of its data collecting in November 2019. Some children are identified under the 'unassigned' category, causing the counts for totals not to match.

**Michigan**

- Michigan does not serve children 3 and older under Part C. The 12-month EXIT period ended on count day, 10/7/2020.

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* The Michigan response to COVID-19 was to suspend all in-person education-based activities for several months, causing a major disruption in child find and Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) activities. Monthly Initial IFSPs dropped in April 2020 and started a slow climb in August 2020. The reduction in activity had an impact on the Exit counts. The overall cumulative child count from October 2019 to October 2020 was down, and the number exited in that period was also down.
* In-person Part B eligibility meetings were not able to be held, causing an increase in exit reason Part B eligibility not determined.
* Families with children moved less during the COVID-19 months, so the number of children exiting Part C because they moved was down.
* Even with increased efforts at reaching families, communications were difficult, leading to the increase in exits due to Attempts to Contact Unsuccessful. This was offset somewhat by a moderate decrease in the number of exits due to Withdrawal by Parent.

**Minnesota**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* This category decrease is likely due to a reduction in services because of the pandemic. Many students did not re-enroll for Part B in SY 2020-21 due to the pandemic. Overall enrollment in SY 2020-21 was down resulting in fewer students exiting.

**Mississippi**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* Due to COVID-19, the State saw a significant decrease in enrollment for early intervention. This decrease of enrollment and families exiting the program before the child turns three had a major impact on the exiting numbers.

**Missouri**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* Increase in Part B eligibility not determined: The Part C exit data shows a large increase in the number of children for whom Part B eligibility was not determined. Part B monitoring data of Part C to B transition timeliness showed very high levels of compliance suggesting that timeline requirements were met. The discrepancy between the two data sets could be explained by 1) local staffing issues for both Part B and C resulted in Part C staff not having full information on the Part B status when children were exited from the Part C program; and 2) COVID-19 related concerns resulted in some families not pursuing Part B eligibility and services after the children were initially referred to Part B leaving the Part B eligibility status unknown at exit from Part C.
* Decrease in Completion of IFSP: Due to the circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic, some services were missed due to parents or early intervention providers being ill, quarantined, or generally overwhelmed. These disruptions to services are likely related to fewer children exiting the program due to completion of the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).

**Montana**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* The Montana Part C FFY 2020 Exiting data was impacted by the pandemic. Most notably, families selected to exit the Part C Program as the overwhelming work of supporting school-age children in the home environment accompanied by supporting their infant or toddler with a disability via virtual technology in Part C proved to be beyond their current capacity. Additionally, numerous Montana families have minimal access to internet connectivity or could not afford the expense of additional data plans to support both their school-aged children and their infant and/or toddler using virtual systems. Families left the Program before Part B eligibility could be determined.
* Montana launched a new data management system effective February 1, 2021. The data captured for FFY 2020 Part C Exiting is collected from two data management system sources: For the period of July 1, 2020, through January 31, 2021, exit data was collected in the previous system, the Early Intervention Module. For the period of February 1, 2021, through June 30, 2021, exit data was extracted from a report built in the new system, Med Compass. The original exit data report collected from the new system was identified as invalid; thus, a data extract was performed, reviewed, and validated. These data sources are combined to create the full data picture of Montana's Part C Exiting for FFY 2020.

**Nevada**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* Increases in the number of unsuccessful contacts, withdrawals, and parents declining Part B transition meetings correlate to the decrease in the number of children completing their Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) before age three (3), Part B eligible and accessing programs after exit from Part C when not Part B eligible. Additionally, some children caught up on developmental skills and some parents declined to receive an evaluation at districts throughout the state. Some school closures, due to COVID-19, affected transition meeting availability.

**New Hampshire**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* The state data system did not include race/ethnicity for some children exiting Part C during FFY 2020. This missing data caused a decrease in total numbers of race/ethnicity in comparison to gender data.
* Due to children missing race/ethnicity data in New Hampshire’s (NH) state NHLeads data system, the race/ethnicity count does not equal total number of children Exiting by Gender. This missing race/ethnicity data reflects differences within the following exiting reasons: No Longer Eligible for Part C Prior to Reaching Age Three; Part B Eligible Exiting Part C; Part B Eligibility Not Determined; Withdrawal by a Parent (or Guardian)); Deceased; and Moved out of State. Although the State continues to work with local Part C programs regarding race/ethnicity data entry, it is difficult to correct missing race/ethnicity data for those children who have exited the Part C system.
* During the COVID-19 Pandemic, many families did not accept referrals to other programs due to health and risk concerns. Local programs available to families were not providing in-person services causing the number of children Exiting to decrease under referrals to other programs. In addition, due to families dealing with a variety of changes in family schedules (i.e., work and school at home), families did not respond to attempts to contact from local Part C programs causing the number of children Exiting to increase under unsuccessful attempts to contact.

**New Jersey**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* The New Jersey Early Intervention System (NJEIS) had fewer children enter the program in this reporting time period due to COVID-19; therefore, less children were expected to exit the program during the past year.

**New York**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* Per New York's Part C guidance, if the parent consents to referral of their child who is currently receiving Early Intervention (EI) services and turning age three to determine eligibility for preschool special education services, but obtaining an evaluation and Part B eligibility determination is not feasible prior to the child's third birthday due to the COVID-19 emergency, such child may remain in the Early Intervention Program (EIP) until a Part B eligibility determination can be made or August 31, 2020, whichever comes first.
* Some children were not evaluated to determine Part B eligibility and therefore categorized in '6. Part B eligibility not determined'.
* Some children were found not eligible for Part B and therefore categorized in either '4. Not eligible for Part B, exit with referrals to other programs' or '5. Not eligible for Part B, exit with no referrals'.

**North Carolina**

- The North Carolina (NC) Infant-Toddler Program does not serve children past their 3rd birthday.

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* North Carolina's Infant Toddler Program (N.C. ITP) saw a substantial decrease in both the number and overall percent of children exiting in SY 2020-21 with an exit reason of “Part B eligible, exiting Part C”. The lower number and percent of children in this exit category were a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. While many schools in North Carolina did begin to open during SY 2020-21, they faced a significant backlog of children needing eligibility evaluations for Part B 619. This impacted the ability of the Part B 619 program to make eligibility determinations prior to children turning age 3, resulting in a more children exiting Part C with their Part B eligibility status still unknown.

**North Dakota**

- Of the children who exited the program due to withdrawal by parent or guardian, some of those were due to concerns about health and safety during the COVID-19 health emergency.

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* In regard to the change in the exiting category of “Part B Eligibility Not Determined," a single program in one of the state's highest population areas was identified as almost doubling the number of children who exited under this category. Analysis of the program's data revealed that almost twice as many parents chose not to have eligibility determined for their children in FFY 2020 as in FFY 2019. The program reported that this change is due to the family's concern over the necessity of an in-person evaluation being conducted by the LEA during the COVID-19 health emergency.
* In regard to the change in the exiting category of "Not Eligible for Part B, Exited with No Referrals", a single program was identified as having an increase in their count. The program reported that in FFY 2019, more parents chose to opt-out of Part B evaluation when their child was around 2 years, 5 months old. In FFY 2020, there was an increase in the number of parents who chose to pursue Part B evaluation even though their child was not likely to qualify. The program did not make any policy or procedural changes, and attributes this change to typical variation in family preferences.

**Oklahoma**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* The significant decrease in "Part B eligibility not determined" this year was, in part, a function of the pandemic, and we expect to report more children with a confirmed eligibility/non-eligibility in the future.

**Oregon**

- Starting with SY 2018-19, Oregon allows for three permitted values in the Gender category: Male, Female and Non-Binary. The counts of Non-Binary cannot be entered into this report.

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* Part B eligible, Exiting Part C and Not eligible for Part B, exit with no referrals: The number of children served in Part C decreased in SY 2020-21 due to the impact of COVID-19; therefore, fewer children were evaluated for Part B eligibility, which decreased the counts of children exited Part C in SY 2020-21.
* Race/Ethnicity Categories: The number of children served in Part C decreased in SY 2020-21 due to the impact of COVID-19, which affected the counts for all race/ethnicities exiting Part C in SY 2020-21.

**Pennsylvania**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* COVID-19 had a significant part in influencing family participation in Part C services. It was found that some families chose to withdraw from Part C services and not engage in further Part B services to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 by avoiding engagement with others outside of their immediate family.

**Puerto Rico**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* Puerto Rico has had a decreasing population trend for the past decade. The jurisdiction has experienced a decrease in population from birth to 3 between 2010 and 2020. This is related to a decrease in the number of live births and people moving out of the island because of important events such as hurricanes, earthquakes, and other socioeconomical circumstances. During FFY 2020, the Program dealt and continues to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic which saw the temporal closure of many other programs, health centers, and organizations that made timely referrals for Part C services. The Early Intervention Program received fewer referrals in this period when compared with FFY 2019. The pandemic was the reason for the shift to service provision through a telehealth modality. During this period, it was harder for service coordinators to locate some of the families and why some families opted to withdraw from services. All these reasons have impacted the exiting data for FFY 2020.

**Rhode Island**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* According to Early Intervention Provider feedback, families expressed hesitation about tele-health while coping with competing priorities such as caring for other children at home while working from home themselves, lack of technology, and other family stressors including: loss of a loved one due to COVID-19, experiencing financial difficulties, unemployment, and lack of resources. These factors are thought to have influenced shifts in these data. Increases in 'not eligible for Part B' is thought to be correlated with an overall population shift in this year's discharges and could be also due to the LEAs’ COVID-19 interim process for eligibility determination for Part B 619 services.
* For FFY 2019, Rhode Island experienced an expected significant increase in children discharged under the categories "Part B eligibility not determined", "Not eligible for Part B exit with referrals to other programs" and a significant decrease in "Withdrawal by parent (or guardian)". The state team hypothesized that the reason for this shift in data is due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. After a detailed analysis of these data pre- and post-COVID-19, it was determined that the majority of the shift did indeed occur between March - June 2020. In Rhode Island, many of the local education agencies (LEAs) delayed evaluations of children to determine Part B 619 eligibility and in some cases determined that not enough information was available to determine eligibility and found the child "not-eligible." As expected, the decrease in "Withdrawal by parent (or guardian)" category is a continuation of the clarification and technical assistance provided to the state's individual Early Intervention (EI) programs in FFY 2018 to ensure that programs correctly categorized children as "No longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three." Previously, the programs incorrectly categorized these children as "Withdrawal by parent (or guardian)".

**South Carolina**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* Data excludes children who were re-referred and whose exit was reported in a previous Annual Performance Report (APR).
* Exiting Category - Attempts to Contact Unsuccessful: During FFY 2020, residents of South Carolina experienced multiple impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Families having to navigate COVID-19, virtual learning, shut-downs, layoffs, etc., made for stressful times where families had to focus on health and safety and basic needs. As a result, family’s follow-through on services could have been negatively impacted.
* Exiting Category - Part B Eligibility Not Determined: The increase in the number of children for whom Part B eligibility was not determined corresponds with a decrease in the South Carolina Department of Education’s child count numbers for the same period.

**South Dakota**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* Exit Reason #6 (‘Part B eligibility not determined’): In South Dakota, transition evaluations are conducted by the child’s resident school district. Part C services remained open throughout the pandemic. Public School Districts from 7/1/20 to 9/30/20 were either not conducting evaluations due to COVID-19 or were backlogged with Part B evaluations. Because of this, the state saw an increase in the number of children exiting the program without a transition evaluation.

**Tennessee**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* No longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three: Two of the nine districts experienced a decrease and the remaining districts had minimal change for this exit reason. Between FFY 2019 and FFY 2020 Tennessee Early Intervention System (TEIS) experienced staff turnover and new Service Coordinators were hired, particularly in larger districts. OSEP’s revised definition for this exit reason was incorporated into the 2017 TEIS Operations Manual. Information was also included in the most current version of Service Coordinator “new hire” training. TEIS believes Service Coordinators are now more accurately applying the use of this definition for children exiting.
* Attempts to contact unsuccessful: The majority of TEIS districts experienced a significant increase in this exit reason. In March 2020 the national COVID-19 pandemic began in Tennessee. TEIS operations (e.g., Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meetings, service delivery, transition meetings) moved to virtual platforms. TEIS operations gradually began returning to in-person, late Spring 2021. TEIS experienced an increase in the loss of contact with families during the height of the national pandemic.
* Withdrawal by parent (or guardian): Two primary factors impacted this exit reason:

1. The majority of TEIS districts experienced a significant increase in this exit reason. In March 2020 the national COVID-19 pandemic began in Tennessee. TEIS operations (e.g., IFSP meetings, service delivery, transition meetings) moved to virtual platforms. TEIS operations gradually began to return to in-person, late Spring 2021. TEIS experienced an increase in the loss of contact with families during the height of the national pandemic.

2. TEIS also believes the more accurate application of the “618-No longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three” reason impacted the increase in this exit reason. Families may express their desire to exit when they have no further concerns about their child’s progress/outcome achievement. A formal evaluation for continued Part C eligibility is not conducted in this situation prior to exiting, thus, the reason “618-No longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three” is not applicable.

**Texas**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* Item #1 - COVID-19 affected delivered hours statewide, which probably affected the completion of Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs), and there is an increase in the percentage of "Withdrawal by family."
* Item #2 – The transition eligibility process was impacted due to COVID-19.
* Item #4 - “Not eligible for Part B, exit with referrals to other programs”: There was an increase in the "could not be contacted “, "Part B Eligible" and “withdrawal by family” categories, which may have impacted this percentage. This led to a decrease in percentage in this category.
* Item #5 “Not eligible for Part B, exit with no referrals”- There was an increase in the "could not be contacted”, "Part B Eligible" and “withdrawal by family” categories, which may have impacted this percentage. This led to a decrease in percentage in this category.
* Item #6 “Part B Eligibility Not Determined” - There is an increase in the "could not be contacted " and "withdrawal by family" categories, which may have impacted this percentage.
* Item #10 “Attempts to contact unsuccessful” – Attempts to contact unsuccessful was impacted due to COVID-19.
* Item Total Number of Infants and Toddlers Exiting by Racial Ethnic Groups - “Hispanic”, “Asian”, “American Indian or Alaska Native”– There was a natural variation in the percentage of children exiting from these categories. COVID-19 may have impacted service delivery, which may have led to increasing the length of stay in the program.

**Utah**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* Exit Reason 4. Not eligible for Part B, exit with referrals to other programs: During FFY 2020, there was a decrease of exit category Not Eligible for Part B and Exit with Referrals to Other Programs, compared with FFY 2019. Exiting children who were Part B eligible decreased overall from FFY 2019 and were impacted by COVID-19. The decrease in the percentage of exiting children with referrals to other programs also may have been caused by COVID-19 impacts to families. Factors for the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic included instability of the workforce, fear of travel, and disease spread.
* Exit reason 6. Part B Eligibility Not Determined: During FFY 2020, there was a decrease of exit category Part B Eligibility Not Determined, compared with FFY 2019. Utah Part B staff have gained more expertise and have updated their system to ensure efficiency of the electronic reconciliation process and increased the capacity for some Part B preschools to test or determine eligibility. Utah Part C also modified their database, BTOTS, interaction with the electronic reconciliation system to ensure that reconciliation with Part B was allowed through the entire fiscal year.
* Exit Reason 10. Attempts to contact unsuccessful: During FFY 2020, there was an increase of exit category Attempts to Contact Unsuccessful, compared with FFY 2019.
* The COVID-19 pandemic contributed to this increase in several ways, including difficulty arranging and successfully completing transition meetings with parents. More parents did not provide approval for transition conferences, with fewer toddlers receiving the transition conference during FFY 2020. Additional factors for the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic included instability of the workforce, fear of travel, and disease spread.

**Vermont**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* Regions shared that, this year, many more families failed to respond to outreach after a child was made active in the program. During the State’s annual data review root cause analysis, it was determined that the most common reason for "attempts to contact families unsuccessful" was due to COVID-19. Families agreed to services, but then, after they had started, the families would not follow through with telehealth or in person services they selected due to:

- Telehealth being unsatisfying

- In person being concerning when COVID-19 numbers would rise.

**Virginia**

- Virginia does not serve infants and toddlers with disabilities after they turn three.

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* Overall numbers in Part C decreased due to some parents electing not to receive services due to COVID-19.
* Some parents elected to stay in Part C rather than go to other services. Children in Part C during COVID-19 tended to have more significant delays and disabilities, leading to fewer withdrawals.
* Families faced many challenges during COVID-19 and potentially had other priorities.

**Washington**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* A data entry error caused the large discrepancy in category 1.

**West Virginia**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* West Virginia observed a decline in the number of children being served throughout the state during SY 2020-21. Due to fewer children being in the program, we observed fewer children exiting the program as well. West Virginia also observed a significantly larger number of children exiting in the attempts to contact unsuccessful category. With families being overwhelmed during this time with the COVID-19 pandemic, families may have been less likely to respond to the program's attempt to provide services resulting in a larger number of children exiting in this category.

**Wisconsin**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* Due to the decrease in enrollment during FFY 2020, the overall number of Part C exits, including nearly all exit reasons and all races and ethnicities, decreased from FFY 2019 to FFY 2020. Additionally, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction closed during the last quarter of FFY 2019 and did not begin processing referrals from Part C until the second quarter of FFY 2020. Other programs like Head Start, child care services, and other community-based programs may not have been open during much of FFY 2020 to receive referrals resulting in children leaving Part C but not being referred to other programs. Since the end of FFY 2020, the Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program has recorded increases in the proportion of children being determined Part B eligible and will continue to monitor this data moving forward.

**Wyoming**

- The State provided the following response(s) to large Year to Year change(s):

* There was an increase in children exiting Part C with the reason 'Part B eligibility not determined' for a variety of reasons surrounding COVID-19: testing couldn't be completed due to quarantines, parent cancellations due to illness, parent resistance to move on to preschool classroom during COVID-19, etc.