Part C Exiting Data Notes

2019-20 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.

**Alabama**

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

* We feel that the cases for "Not eligible for Part B, exit with no referrals" for Year 2 (SY 2018-19) were an anomaly and now, with some training for our Service Coordinators, the number has regulated. All families, when leaving Early Intervention, are offered a referral to Alabama's Help Me Grow in addition to the local education agency (LEA) referral. The cases that exit without a referral would be families that chose to not be referred on to other programs. There have been no other changes or initiatives that would affect the data.

**Alaska**

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

* Alaska Part C experienced a large increase in exiting children because of families withdrawing their children due to COVID-19 concerns.

**Arizona**

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

* The COVID-19 pandemic significantly impacted reasons and number of exits for children and families exiting Part C during the final quarter of the year ultimately resulting in changes to cumulative totals compared to previous years.
* The most significant impact the pandemic had on exits includes the total exiting Part C with Part B eligibility not determined resulting in an inverse relationship with a moderate decrease split between both the number that were found eligible for Part B and those that were found not eligible for Part B during mid-March to June.
* Local early intervention providers and families were generally hesitant to exit cases during the spring as they initially believed that the pandemic would resolve quickly. In many cases, families would ask to postpone services and eventually disengage after a period, resulting in increases in attempts to contact families that were unsuccessful.
* In situations where a child that was due for a re-evaluation, consistent with Arizona’s policy around informed clinical opinion, but families disengaged with early intervention staff, these families were unable to be reached and thus could not consent to a re-evaluation. So, the increase in attempts to contact unsuccessful also directly resulted in the decrease of children that were able to be evaluated and determined no longer eligible for Part C.
* Another fluctuation impacting totals includes an increase in families choosing to withdraw from Part C services to focus on other health and safety concerns, economic insecurity around job loss or maintaining a consistent work schedule, and thus not interested in receiving services through alternative service delivery methods.
* While it is noted that fewer families exited due to moving out of state, this is from the same concerns impacting the families that withdrew from services. Many of these families believed they were going out of state temporarily and did not respond to early intervention staff after multiple attempts, so their move out of state could not be confirmed thus ending up in the category of attempts to contact unsuccessful.

**Arkansas**

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

* The decrease in the number of children “Not eligible for Part B, exiting with no referral” was due to the increase in children completing their Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs). The pandemic caused families to decline referrals for additional services.
* The increase in “Part B eligibility not determined” was a result of families exiting due to the pandemic and additional attempts to contact were unsuccessful.
* The increase in “Attempts to contact unsuccessful” was due to the pandemic affecting families’ interest in the program, along with phone numbers changing and being disconnected.
* The increase in children exiting that were “Black or African American” was due to the increase in the total number of children exiting.

**Colorado**

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

* In SY 2019-20 Early Intervention (EI) Colorado did not determine any children no longer eligible for EI Service. All children who withdraw EI Service prior to age 3 do so under withdrawal by parent (or guardian). EI Colorado does not determine children under the age of 3 ineligible for EI Services.
* EI Colorado re-categorized child exit reasons in our state data system (Early Intervention [EI] Data System) on 11/29/2016. When a child exits Early Intervention, a user must select a reason why the child is exiting. The exit reasons used needed further delineation and clarification to align with exit reasons updated by the Office of Special Education Programs in September 2016. The data note for SY 2019-20 explained this re-categorization however the SY 2018-19 data was not resubmitted.

**Connecticut**

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

* Connecticut reviewed the year-to-year change for the SY 2018-19 to SY 2019-20 exit data and have verified the increase in children having Part B eligibility not determined over the previous year. During the SY 2018-19 to SY 2019-20 years, the Public Health Emergency of COVID-19 affected Connecticut. During March 2020, schools closed, and children shifted to remote learning, leaving Part B staff unable to determine Part C’s exiting children's eligibility for Part B until the late summer of 2020.

**Georgia**

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

* Georgia’s eligibility requirements state that once a child is initially eligible for services, they can remain in the program until they turn 36 months. However, the children can exit early if they meet their outcomes. Upon exiting, the program will inform the parents that they can recontact if they have concerns before the child is 3. For this reporting period, per the annual re-evaluation, most of the children served had caught up developmentally, indicating that they were no longer eligible for early intervention services.

**Guam**

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

* The total amount of exited children has increased, which resulted in some categories seeing an increase as well.
* Numerical differences on a smaller population, as on Guam, result in higher percentage difference as well.

**Hawaii**

- 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: During the COVID-19 pandemic, Hawaii’s standardized tool (Batelle 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.

**Idaho**

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

* We experienced withdrawals by parents for COVID reasons, representing approximately 1% of all exits, and raising the Withdrawal by parent (or guardian) by that amount. The proportional distribution was approximately equal across the largest three race/ethnicity groups: White, Hispanic, Mixed.
* The decline in the number of children exiting because of No longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three is inversely related to the somewhat larger rise in exits because of Attempts to contact unsuccessful,” and both are directly related to our experiences in COVID. Parents found it difficult to maintain connection when most in-person visits were replaced by telehealth visits. Their children withdrew by default because we were unable to maintain contact with them. This reduced the number of children who could properly graduate and then exit as no longer eligible for Part C. We began seeing both changes in the fourth quarter of 2019-20.
* The increase in exits because the family Moved out of state is also thought to be COVID-related, and a function of job loss and resulting housing insecurity. It occurred most in the southeastern regions of Idaho, which were hard-hit by job loss. Hispanics and whites accounted for the largest increase in the numbers moving out of state. These groups also experienced the most job losses. It is unclear whether this job-related explanation accounts for the increase in Asians moving out of state, a proportionate increase greater than the rise among Hispanics and the increase among whites.
* The drop in exits among American Indian or Alaskan Native reflects three main facts.

(1) It follows a huge increase in exits by that group the prior year and represents a rebound effect. Specifically, that large exodus of Native Americans in SY 2018-19 was answered in a natural leveling, with just a small proportion that exited in SY 2019-20.

(2) Further, the proportion of children in the program exiting in a given year was within the average range in SY 2019-20, and higher than the proportion experienced in SY 2017-18. Specifically, over the past three years, on average about half of the Native Americans served in a given year exited in that year. As a function of the number of children in the program, this number of exits in SY 2019-20 is closest to the 3-year average. In addition, the new enrollments remained stable so they could only partially offset the exits of SY 2018-19.

(3) In the 4th quarter of SY 2019-20, North Idaho experienced the pandemic-prompted closure of the Early Childhood Learning Center, a tribal community resource known to receive exiting Idaho Infant Toddler Program (ITP) children. Without this alternative, some families kept their children in ITP rather than exit them.

**Indiana**

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

* Due to COVID-19, many Part B programs delayed the evaluation process for children exiting from Part C to Part B which led to an increase in the number of children exiting with reason Part B eligibility not determined.
* Additionally, there was an increase in the number of families withdrawing from Part C due to concerns of COVID-19.

**Iowa**

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

* The decrease in children exiting as no longer eligible for Part C before the age of three is likely due to parents declining services due to circumstances related to service delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic. When an infant/toddler exits Part C in Iowa with an exit reason of “No longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three”, an evaluation is required to ensure that the child is no longer eligible for Part C services. If this evaluation was not able to be completed, an infant/toddler is not exited in the category “No longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three” which would result in a lower count this reporting year.
* Agencies temporarily closed at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which created a temporary pause in services and impacted the ability to collect data. Circumstances related to COVID-19 created a delay in meeting transition timelines. School closures resulted in delayed eligibility meetings for special education, therefore increasing the number of exits for Part B eligibility not determined.

**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):

* There was a significant increase in the category Withdrawal by Parent (or guardian) from SY 2018-19 to SY 2019-20. In drilling down the SY 2019-20 data, Kansas determined that half of the programs accounted for most of the parent withdrawal exits compared to the previous year. While Kansas Part C worked diligently to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on Part C services it has been determined that the increase in parent withdrawal is due to a variety of factors directly related to the pandemic.

**Kentucky**

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

* Beginning March 24, 2020, a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic was declared, and all non-life sustaining services were suspended. The state of emergency continues to date. Many children who turned three between March 24 and June 30 were not exited as the cases were left open to allow for make-up of missed services during the last quarter of the fiscal year. Those cases that did close before June 30th were not determined eligible for Part B because of closed schools. Increases in parent withdrawal, not B eligible with no referrals, attempts to contact unsuccessful and Part B not determined categories increased as a result of the pandemic.

**Louisiana**

- Louisiana does not provide services to children over age 3.

**Maryland**

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

* There is an increase in the number of children reported in the Part B eligibility not determined category. More families are choosing to not participate in the Part B eligibility determination process. Several jurisdictions reported an increase in the number of parents that initially indicated they would participate in the Part B eligibility process but when the local programs called to remind the parents of the upcoming meeting, parents no longer wanted to participate in the edibility process.

**Massachusetts**

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

* The FFY 18 to FFY 19 increases and decreases in the number of children in Massachusetts under the various exiting reason categories is due to a change in methodology of reporting. In November 2019 Massachusetts implemented a new EI client system for the collection of all EI child data. Prior to November 2019 the exiting status was derived from two questions, discharge reason and recommended referrals. The new client system collects data on the discharge reason using the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) categories so that EI providers are determining the appropriate exiting reason.
* The FFY 18 to FFY 19 decrease in the number of children under 'Completion of IFSP prior to reaching maximum age for Part C' is due to this implementation. Only those children who are deemed ineligible according to data in the system, unlike in the past, can select this reason, resulting in fewer cases under this category and users needing to select a more appropriate reason for exiting.
* The FFY18 to FFY19 increase in the number of children under 'Not eligible for Part B, Exit with no referrals' and the decrease in the number of children under 'Not eligible for Part B, exit with referrals to other programs', is due to the new client system implementation. If a child is not Part B eligible and is still eligible according to data in the system, the system does not display the Completion of Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) category. Instead, they must select a more appropriate category. Either one of these two categories would be deemed appropriate.
* The FFY 18 to FFY 19 decrease in the number of children under 'Part B eligibility not determined' is due to a change in methodology. The state collected this information prior to exiting EI under its legacy data system. This information is now collected at the time that a child exits EI, providing more time for local providers to acquire eligibility determination.

**Michigan**

- Michigan does not serve children 3 and older under Part C. The 12-month EXIT period ended on count day, 10/2/2019.

**Minnesota**

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

* We are reporting a large number of children that were not identified as exiting and have not been identified as enrolled in SY 2020-21. We are currently listing those children as 'Attempts to contact unsuccessful'. We believe COVID restrictions have impacted this data. Our student data will not be finalized for the previous school year (SY 2019-20) until after December 2020.

**Mississippi**

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

* Due to COVID-19, School Districts stopped evaluating for Part B in March 2020, which lead to an increase in the number of children who were categized as Part B eligibility not determined and a decrease in those who were Part B Eligible and Part B eligibility not determined.
* Due to COVID-19, the program saw an increase in Moved-out of State because a lot of families lost their jobs.
* Due to COVID-19, the Service Coordinators lost contact with families and was unable to contact them which increase the attempts to contact unsuccessful and decreased families formally withdrawing from the program.
* Due to COVID-19, Service Coordinators where not able to hold exit meetings to determine if a child was no longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three. The state has a very migrant Hispanic/Latino population which fluctuates in the state.

**Missouri**

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

* Increases in Part B Eligibility Not Determined and Attempts to Contact Unsuccessful are likely due to COVID-19 disruptions in spring 2020.
* The increase in exiters in the Two or More Races category is due an overall increase in the number of children in that category.

**Montana**

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

* There was an increase in the number of children reported in the Part B eligibility not determined reporting category. There were specific school district challenges in determining Part B eligibility prior to children exiting the Part C Program at the time of the child’s third birthday due to the pandemic.
* There was a decrease in the number of children withdrawn by parent (or guardian). Specific strategies were used to ensure/promote continuous enrollment in the Program with great results.

**Nebraska**

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

* Data variations for “Part B eligible, exiting Part C,” “Withdrawal by parent (or guardian),” “Attempts to contact unsuccessful,” and “Two or more races” are due to the continued implementation of our new data collection system. We are getting data directly from the school district’s Student Information Systems into the State system. Districts are getting more comfortable with these changes which has improved timeliness and accuracy of our exiting data.
* The COVID 19 pandemic directly impacted Part C exiters around withdrawals and unsuccessful contacts. Redistributions between exiting categories and expected fluctuations between year-to-year data explains some of the differences in the SY 2019-20 exiting data set.

**Nevada**

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

* The data representing children whose Part B eligibility is not determined increased by a large amount during the last quarter of the fiscal year (April - June 2020) as a result of the closure of school districts during the pandemic.

**New Jersey**

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

* The state data show that the increase in Withdrawal by Parent, had a higher percentage of families who exited in April, May, and June 2020, when COVID significantly affected NJ. Prior to the pandemic, the state had a slight increase in Withdrawal by Parent due to family concerns for the Public Charge Rules and use of "public services". Although the State provided accurate information to families and service coordination that clarified Part C exemption from those rules families chose to withdrawal.

**New Hampshire**

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

* Year to year decrease for “Not eligible for Part B, exit with no referral” and “Moved out of state” is representative of the decreased number of infants and toddlers exiting in year 3 across all exit categories.

**New York**

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

* Per New York (NY) 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 of these children were reported under '3. Part B eligible, continuing in Part C' unless they have a Part B eligibility determination recorded in the data system.
* The toddlers exiting EIP because of unsuccessful attempts to contact increased from SY 2018-19 to PY 2019-20. Most of the increase came from April-June 2020, indicating the COVID-19 pandemic could be the reason more families lost contact with the EIP.

**North Carolina**

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

* The NC Individualized Transition Plan (ITP) saw a substantial increase in both the number and overall percent of children exiting in FY 2019-20 with an exit reason of “Part B eligibility not determined”. The higher number and percent of children in this exit category were a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many schools in North Carolina were closed for the last several months of FY 2019-20 (and many are still closed at the time of this data note). This impacted the ability of the Part B 619 program to make eligibility determinations prior to children turning age 3, resulting in a higher number and percent of children exiting Part C with their Part B eligibility status still unknown.

**North Dakota**

- 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 more than doubling the number of children who exited under this category. Analysis of the program's data revealed that twice as many parents chose not to have eligibility determined for their children in FFY 2019 as in FFY 2018. 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 race/ethnicity category of "American Indian or Alaska Native," a single program was identified as having twice as many individuals identified as "American Indian or Alaska Native" in FFY 2019 as in FFY 2018. Analysis of the program's data indicates that there was an increase in the number of children who are in custody of a tribal entity's social services. Additionally, in North Dakota, parents self-identify race, leading to year-to-year changes between race/ethnicity categories depending on how parents choose to identify race for their child.

**Ohio**

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

* The percentage of children who were exited from early intervention (EI) who reached age three, but Part B eligibility was not determined increased from FFY 2018 to FFY 2019. This difference is believed to be primarily due to challenges related to the COVID-19 pandemic during the last several months of the fiscal year.
* The percentage of children exiting whose race was identified as Two or More Races increased slightly from FFY 2018 to FFY 2019. The increase in total number of children whose race was identified as Two or More races exiting in FFY 2019 compared to FFY 2018 is partially due to an increase in the total number of exits in FFY 2019 and is believed to also be due to typical year to year variation.

# **Oregon**

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

* There was an increase in Part B eligibility not determined, due to the COVID pandemic.
* Due to COVID-19 and in compliance with the Governor's executive order, schools were closed to in-person instruction from March 13, 2020, through the remainder of SY 2019-20. This prevented and delayed in-person evaluations to determine Part B eligibility which decreased the count reported as not eligible for Part B, exit with no referrals, and increased the count reported as Part B eligibility not determined.
* It is thought that the count of two or more races reported as exited increased since the count of students receiving early intervening services reported as two or more races on the child count increased this same school year.

# **Puerto Rico**

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

* This year, more children exited the program because of unsuccessful attempts of contact with the families. We also reported that more families moved out of the state. The Puerto Rico (PR) Early Intervention Program (EIP) can relate these data with the COVID-19 pandemic and the earthquakes. In January 2020, several earthquakes mainly hit the southwest coast of the island, although these had effects throughout the island. Many families were left without a home or a job. Later, on March 16th, the former Governor of Puerto Rico imposed a lockdown when COVID-19 was officially declared a pandemic, and early intervention services were interrupted for about 5 weeks. Meanwhile, a protocol to provide virtual early intervention services was being developed, since PR did not have an infrastructure for telehealth prior to the pandemic. Contact with families proved to be a challenge when our regional centers started to provide services virtually. As many families throughout the island lost their jobs, many decided to move out of the jurisdiction to mainland US. This is a phenomenon we also experienced after hurricanes Irma and Maria.

# **Rhode Island**

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

* 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, the majority of the shift did indeed occur between March - June 2020.
* In our state, 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):

In FFY 2019, South Carolina Part C saw an increase in the December 1 Child Count . For children exiting the state early intervention system, there was a corresponding increase in the frequency of: five of the ten exit categories; three of the seven ethnicity and race categories; and a significant increase in the year-to-year frequencies of four of the exit, ethnicity, or race categories. The proportional change, however, of year-to-year change in exit categories 6, 9, 10, and 16 appears to be in keeping with past years’ trends when child count also increased and remains well below the 20% change threshold.

# **South Dakota**

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

* Exit Reason #1 (No longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three): South Dakota (SD) felt the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic from 3/13/2020 to 6/30/2020, however, throughout this time early intervention services continued via Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) approved alternative methods. Children continued to make progress, reach their outcomes and exit the program prior to age three. However, face-to-face evaluations were not taking place with the same pace. Public school districts, who conduct Part C eligibility and transition evaluations, had moved to a virtual learning platform and were conducting very limited Part C and Part B evaluations. A very limited number of private providers were conducting transition evaluations due to social distancing. This, together, resulted in a significant decrease in the number of Exit Reason #1.
* Exit Reason #4 (Not eligible for Part B, exit with referrals to other programs): In the state of SD public school districts conduct eligibility and transition evaluations for Part C. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, from 3/13/2020 to 6/30/2020, a limited number of evaluations were taking place in SD. School districts had moved to a virtual learning platform and were not conducting Part C or Part B evaluations. This caused SD to have an unusually high number of infants and toddlers exiting the program with Part B eligibility not determined (Exit #6) and caused the number of infants and toddlers not found eligible for Part B to decrease.
* Exit Reason #5 (Not eligible for Part B, exit with no referrals): In the state of SD public school districts conduct eligibility and transition evaluations for Part C. Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, from 3/13/2020 to 6/30/2020, a limited number of evaluations were taking place in SD. School districts had moved to a virtual learning platform and were not conducting Part C or Part B evaluations. This caused SD to have an unusually high number of infants and toddlers exiting the program with Part B eligibility not determined (Exit #6).
* Exit Reason #6 (Part B eligibility not determined): South Dakota felt the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic from 3/13/2020 to 6/30/2020, however, throughout this time early intervention services continued via OSEP approved alternative methods. However, face-to-face evaluations were not taking place with the same pace. Public school districts, who conduct Part C eligibility and transition evaluations, had moved to a virtual learning platform and were conducting very limited Part C and Part B evaluations. A very limited number of private providers were conducting transition evaluations due to social distancing and health concerns. Because of this, the state saw an increase in the number of children exiting the program without a transition or outcome evaluations conducted.
* Exit Reason #8 (Moved out of state): Due to COVID-19 Pandemic throughout the nation, the number of families relocating dropped significantly, impacting Exit #8.

# **Tennessee**

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

* Due to the worldwide pandemic (COVID-19), overall population growth in Tennessee’s Early Intervention System (TEIS) enrollment showed a much lower rate of growth compared to previous years. Related to this overall growth rate, and due to procedural restrictions put in place for the protection of children, families, and employees of TEIS and school districts, fewer transition meetings were conducted. Therefore, more children exited TEIS whose status in Part B was unknown. This increase coincides with decreases in the categories of "Part B eligible, exiting Part C" and "Not eligible for Part B, exit with no referrals".

# **Texas**

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

* COVID-19 pandemic has impacted counts and percentages in the following exit reason items numbers 1 (No longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three), 2 (Part B eligible, exiting Part C), 6 (Part B eligibility not determined), and 10 (Attempts to contact unsuccessful).
* There was an increase in the children who exited for the reported time period. Amongst those children who exited, COVID-19 may have impacted the following categories "could not be contacted", "Part B eligible", and "withdrawal by family" which showed a percentage increase when compared to the previous year. This in turn may have impacted the transition eligibility process which may have resulted in Part B "not determined" category showing an increase when compared to previous year.
* COVID-19 may have affected the delivered hours statewide which probably affected the completion of Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) which showed a decrease.
* Also, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander population showed a decrease in exited counts This may be due to COVID-19 impacting the exits from previous year.
* For Item # 6 “Part B Eligibility Not Determined” – Percentages in this category may have been impacted by COVID-19 as this process could not be completed as consistently as previous years due to the pandemic.
* For Item # 10 - “Attempts to contact unsuccessful” – Due to COVID-19, contractors relied on other forms of communication, which may have impacted this measure.
* For item # 4- “Not eligible for Part B, exit with referrals to other programs”- COVID-19 may have impacted this category. Since the percentage of unsuccessful contacts increased, the other exit categories such as Part B Eligible or Not Eligible showed a decrease in percentages. Also, “withdrawal by family” showed an increase in percentage, which led to children exiting the program without an assessment for Part B eligibility.
* For item #5- “Not eligible for Part B, exit with no referrals”- COVID-19 may have impacted this category. Since the percentage of unsuccessful contacts increased, the other exit categories such as Part B Eligible or Not Eligible showed a decrease in percentages. Also, “withdrawal by family” showed an increase in percentage, which led to children exiting the program without an assessment for Part B eligibility.

# **Utah**

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

* Exit reason 8. Moved Out of State. During FFY 2019, there was a flagged decrease in the number of children who had moved out of state, compared with FFY 2018. The COVID pandemic had a large contribution, resulting in fewer families moving out of state in FFY 2019. Factors for the impact of the COVID pandemic included instability of the workforce, fear of travel, and disease spread.
* Exit reason 6. Part B Eligibility Not Determined. During FFY 2019, there was a flagged increase of exit category Part B Eligibility Not Determined, compared with FFY 2018. The COVID pandemic contributed to this increase in many ways, including limited efficiency and capacity for some Part B preschools to test or determine eligibility. For example, a) disease spread, precautions, and limited technology and b) difficulty arranging and successfully completing transition meetings with parents. More parents did not provide approval for transition conferences, and there were more documented delays due to family circumstances during FFY 2019.

# **Vermont**

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

* The decrease results from a partnership with Help Me Grow (Vermont’s [VT's] 211) and Head Start: Vermont reviewed the data with providers and discussed importance of and opportunities for referring families to other resources as part of the transition process.

# **Virginia**

- Virginia does not serve children with Part C funds after the age of three.

# **Washington**

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

* The increase in numbers of children reported in the “No longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age three“ exiting category is consistent with and reflects overall increases in the number of children served by Early Support for Infants and Toddlers (ESIT). .
* There was a decrease in the number of children determined no longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age 3. Our data shows that many families have opted to pause services during the COVID-10 pandemic. Parents were not comfortable with in-home services and/or declined virtual services. Provider were not able to provide as much direct services to children who were found eligible which may have slowed progress, and growth development.
* Another potential reason for the decrease is that practitioners did not have frequent access to the children in order to monitor, assess and re-evaluate their progress. Children that do not receive planned services with the same level of frequency identified in the Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) are less likely to meet milestones as expected with same age peers and will not exit the program prior to age Section 6. Part B eligibility not determined.
* There was an increase in the number of children where Part B eligibility was not determined. T Eligibility for children receiving Part C services was not determined while the stay-at-home order was in place. Many school districts closed and transition conferences did not take place. As a result of these closures, the Family Resource Coordinator (FRC) was unable to determine if the child was eligible for Part B services. We did not make changes to our data system to capture these extra-ordinary circumstances and therefore the children appear not to be eligible for Part B services. Families will consult with the school directly upon exit from Part C at age 3.

# **West Virginia**

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

* A large year to year difference was identified for children exiting the program in "No longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age 3" and "Part B not eligible, exit with no referral" during the Fiscal Year 2019. Towards the end of the fiscal year, West Virginia (WV) Part C families were given the option to pend their Part C services during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Since families were given this option for the last 3 months of this fiscal year, more children stayed in the program until they aged out rather than being found not eligible at their annual eligibility meeting. The decrease in children exiting under "No longer eligible under Part C prior to reaching age 3" can be explained by this temporary change in the program's operation due to COVID-19. Families likely chose to not have referrals to other programs during this Pandemic time.
* A large year to year increase was also identified in the number of children exiting as two or more races which can be explained by our year-to-year increase in last year's child count category of two or more races.

# **Wisconsin**

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

* The Wisconsin Birth to 3 Program committed to staying operational throughout COVID-19 starting in March 2020, the last quarter of FY 2019-20. The program used all of our communication opportunities with county programs to push for increased outreach to families and providers to communicate that our program would continue to provide services to children and families throughout the pandemic. In kind, county programs maintained communication with the families they served to ensure participation in their local Birth to 3 Program. We also made substantial adjustments to our services to allow for flexibility during this time which allowed children to continue to participate. These activities impacted change in federal exit reasons of: No longer eligible for Part C prior to reaching age 3 and Attempts to contact unsuccessful.
* Additionally, the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction closed during the last quarter of FY 2019-20 and did not process referrals to Part B services during that time. Spring referrals to the local education agency (LEA) include children exiting the Birth to 3 Program in spring as well as many summer referrals. Other programs like Head Start, other child care services, or other community-based programs may not have been open to receive referrals in the last quarter of FY 2019-20. These activities impacted change in federal exit reasons of: Exit to other program with referrals and Part B eligibility, not determined.

# **Wyoming**

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

* Wyoming among states highest numbers COVID cases per capita. COVID pandemic created social, service delivery impacts throughout state, including impacts families with young children, programs providers.