This information can inform both EI and ECSE were most commonly reported. Online survey in summer 2013 of state EI and ECSE coordinators showed that about two-thirds of EI and ECSE coordinators responded. Almost one-third of states (29%) reported EI to ECSE linkages. Early Childhood Special Education programs were reported as a priority by 77% of EI coordinators, compared with only 42% of ECSE coordinators. An equal number of EI and ECSE coordinators reported priorities for linkages to other EC programs (62%). More ECSE coordinators reported priorities for linkages to K-12 education (67%) than EI coordinators (42%).

Public Health Implications

- Cross-system linkages increase state capacity to use data to improve the health and well-being of young children with special needs.
- Policy and administrative structures can promote or inhibit the development of these linkages.
- More information is needed about how these linkages can link EI and ECSE to other early childhood programs and ECSE with health programs.
- This information can inform greater policy attention to supporting the creation of these data linkages.

Conclusions and Implications

- States have made progress in developing the capacity to link early childhood health, education, and social service programs, but the low percentages for many linkages indicate that there is room for improvement.
- Linkage patterns reflect some degree the influence of federal priorities. Other EC programs were better targets for linkages than EI.
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