

Background

- * Children receiving Early Intervention (EI) services are often also served in other early childhood (EC) programs.
- * Cross-system collaboration is important to enable better service coordination and leverage resources and activities across the systems.

State Systemic Improvement Plans

- * State Systemic Improvement Plans (SSIP) are a new federal requirement for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C Early Intervention state programs.
- * SSIP are comprehensive, multi-year plans to improve results for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.
- * All 56 states and territories participating in IDEA Part C submitted SSIP Phase I plans in April 2015 that included (1) data analysis, (2) infrastructure analysis, (3) child and/or family outcome(s) to improve, (4) improvement strategies, and (5) a theory of action.
- * Phase II was submitted on April 1, 2016, and presented the details of each state's improvement plan and how states will evaluate their improvement activities.
- * SSIP present a valuable opportunity for state staff to partner with other early childhood programs around issues of mutual interest.
- * Of the 56 states/territories, 32 selected social-emotional outcomes, 19 selected acquisition and use of knowledge and skills, and 5 selected family outcomes as the focus of their improvement efforts.

Research Issue

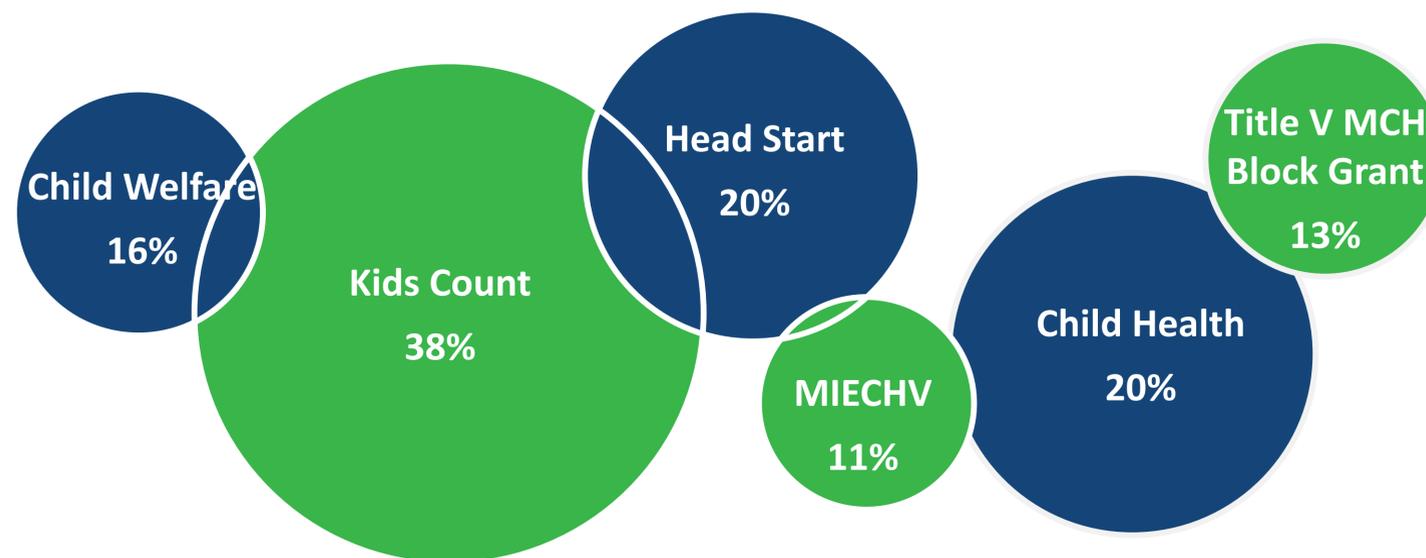
- * This study describes the reported collaboration and partnerships between EI and other EC programs as part of the planning and improvement process in each individual state.

Methods

- * Sample group: 56 states and territories that provide Early Intervention services for children from birth through two years.
- * Data source: Phase I SSIP for Part C Early Intervention.
- * Data analysis: Two coders reviewed each document to determine if and how other EC programs were identified in the SSIP. Disagreements were reconciled by a third coder.

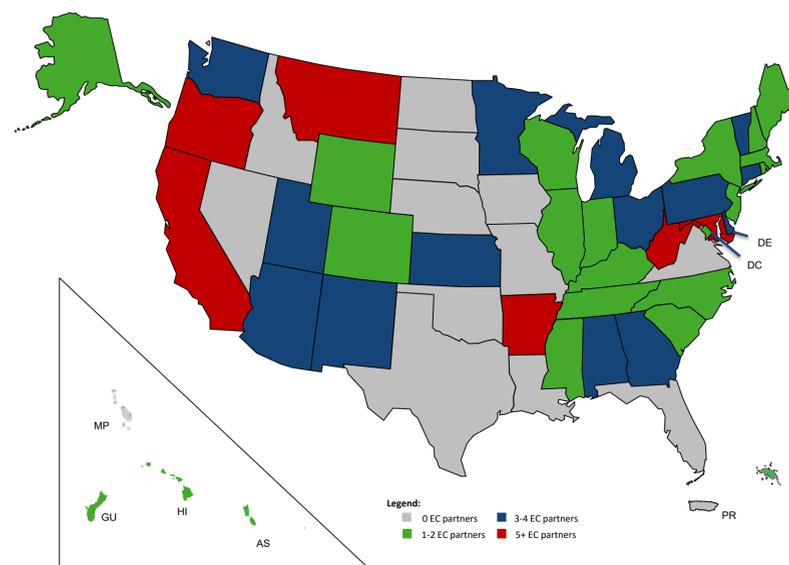
Findings

Figure 1. States Used Diverse EC Data Sources in their Data Analysis to Inform Planning



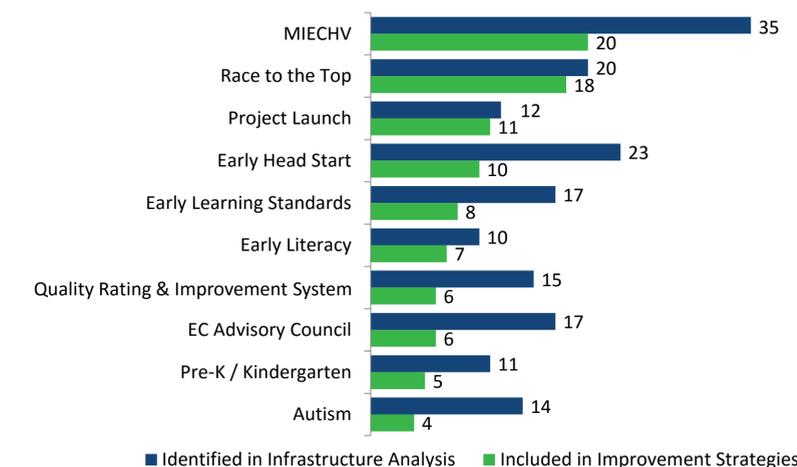
MCH = Maternal and Child Health
MIECHV = Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting

Figure 2. A Majority of States Identified EC Partners to Include in Improvement Strategies



- * States were most likely to include **1-2 EC partners** in their improvement strategies (39%, N = 22) (Figure 2).
- * 25% (N = 14) of states **did not identify** any EC partners (Figure 2).

Figure 3. Many States Identified Collaboration Opportunities with EC Initiatives but Fewer Included Them in Improvement Strategies



- * **MIECHV** was the most frequently identified collaboration opportunity during the infrastructure analysis and the most likely to be included in state improvement strategies (Figure 3).
- * **Early Head Start** was the second most identified program in the infrastructure analysis, but it was less likely than MIECHV to be included in improvement strategies (Figure 3).

Conclusions and Implications

- * State EI programs have begun to consider how increased cross-system collaboration could support their efforts to improve results.
- * Half (n = 28) used other EC program data to develop their SSIP and some included strategies that involve other EC programs.
- * A majority of states (n = 39) have indicated plans to work on cross-system collaboration as part of their SSIP.
- * The increased attention to systemic improvement makes now an ideal time to establish new and strengthen existing partnerships between EI and other EC programs.
- * Partnerships can leverage resources, coordinate services, and achieve the desired outcomes for young children and their families.

Full report on the SSIP analysis available at: <https://osep.grads360.org/#communities/pdc/documents/9033>