



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

## 2018-2019

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**Submitted to:**

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# 1. Introduction

ICF was contracted by the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to administer its annual Part C Indicator 4 Family Survey for 2018-19. Part C Indicator 4 of the Individuals with Disabilities Act (IDEA) requires states to report on 3 items:

**Percentage of families participating in Part C who report that early intervention services have helped the family—**

- A. Know their rights.**
- B. Effectively communicate their children’s needs.**
- C. Help their children develop and learn.**

In support of the effort to meet federal reporting requirements for State Performance Plan (SPP) Indicator 4, ICF administered the Early Intervention Services Family Survey of the Maryland Infants and Toddlers Program (MITP). Surveys were completed by the parents/guardians of children who received early intervention services through the MITP program in 2018-19. The Survey was launched in mid-September and closed in mid-November.

As in prior years, the 2018-19 Survey consists of items obtained from the National Center for Special Education Accountability Monitoring (NCSEAM) item bank. The Survey includes 22 core questions, two demographic questions, and two questions for parents of children older than three receiving early intervention services through an Extended Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). This report summarizes the data collection and analysis methodology used, provides the statewide and local estimates for Indicators 4a, 4b, and 4c, and historical trends.

## 1.1 Data Collection Methodology

MSDE provided the ICF team with the names and addresses of children between the ages of birth through 4 years who received early intervention services through the MITP program in 2018-19; a total of 11,029 households. A survey packet addressed to the “Parent or Guardian of [name of child]” was prepared for each household. Each survey packet contained:

- A letter of introduction signed by the Assistant State Superintendent of the Division of Special Education/Early Intervention Services that explained the purpose of the survey (English and Spanish);
- A copy of the Early Intervention Services Family Survey (English and Spanish); and
- A business reply envelope (addressed to ICF).

Each child was also assigned a unique identifier; this identifier was included on each printed survey. Printed surveys were batched by county and delivered in boxes to the appropriate county’s Local Infants and Toddlers Program (LITP) director. These directors were responsible for distributing the surveys to families. Directors also received a Frequently Asked Questions document that contained answers to common questions about the purpose of the survey.

Families also had the opportunity to complete the survey in English or Spanish online. Families could either use the identifier located on their printed survey to login to the survey, or they could complete an alternative version of the survey that did not require them to login. Respondents completing the alternative version of the survey were required to answer several demographic questions that are not included on the primary version of the survey.

A bilingual telephone and email help desk were maintained for parents for the duration of the survey.

Response rate reports were submitted to MSDE at three points during the survey window: October 21, November 12, and November 20, 2019. The last surveys to be included in this report arrived at ICF’s office on November 22, 2019.

The value of Indicator 4 is determined by calculating the percentage of respondents that agreed with three statements. Each of the three statements corresponds to a separate Indicator.

Over the past year, early intervention services have helped me and/or my family:

4a: know about my child's and family's rights concerning early intervention services. **(Item 19)**

4b: communicate more effectively with the people who work with my child and family. **(Item 17)**

4c: understand my child's special needs. **(Item 21)**

This report presents findings from the Survey in general, and the Indicators specifically.

## 1.2 Response Rates

A total of 11,029 surveys were distributed to families. In total 4,339 completed surveys were returned – resulting in an adjusted response rate<sup>1</sup> of 40.1% (which is up 3.9 percentage points from last year). Four jurisdictions achieved an adjusted response rate of at least 70%, and 14 jurisdictions (58.3% of all local jurisdictions) achieved a response rate of at least 40%. The jurisdictions with the highest adjusted response rates (above 70%) were:

- Wicomico County (100.0%)
- Garrett County (96.3%)
- Queen Anne's (75.7%)
- Allegany County (70.3%)

Response rate data by county is presented in Exhibit 1.1. Howard County achieved the lowest response rate this year, 24.6%, with 127 returned surveys, of which were 125 were completed on paper and 2 were completed online.

Statewide, 3,953 surveys were completed in English (91.1%) and 386 surveys were completed in Spanish (8.8%). In 7 of the 24 jurisdictions, there were no surveys completed in Spanish. Paper surveys were much more common than online surveys. Overall, 4,001 paper surveys were completed (92.2% of all surveys), while 338 surveys were completed online. Out of the 338 online surveys, 84 were completed in Prince George's County.

A total of 206 surveys (1.9%) were undeliverable because the addresses were out of date or inaccurate. The greatest number of undeliverables (52) were in Prince George's County. The jurisdictions with the highest percentage of undeliverable surveys (more than 3%) were:

- Queen Anne's County (n=14; 15.9% undeliverable)
- Dorchester County (n=3; 6.1% undeliverable)
- Worcester County (n=4; 4.4% undeliverable)
- Caroline County (n=2; 3.7% undeliverable)

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<sup>1</sup> Adjusted Response Rate = Number of Surveys Completed/(Number of Surveys Mailed – Number of Surveys Returned Undeliverable)

**Exhibit 1.1: Response Rate Data for Part C Survey**

| County           | Total Number Mailed | Total Surveys Completed | Surveys Completed in English |            | Surveys Completed in Spanish |            | Undeliverable (N) | Adjusted Response Rate (%) |
|------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|------------|------------------------------|------------|-------------------|----------------------------|
|                  |                     |                         | Paper (N)                    | Online (N) | Paper (N)                    | Online (N) |                   |                            |
| <b>Statewide</b> | <b>11,029</b>       | <b>4,339</b>            | <b>3,626</b>                 | <b>327</b> | <b>375</b>                   | <b>11</b>  | <b>206</b>        | <b>40.1%</b>               |
| Allegany         | 104                 | 71                      | 59                           | 12         | -                            | -          | 3                 | 70.3%                      |
| Anne Arundel     | 1,323               | 377                     | 350                          | 8          | 19                           | -          | 29                | 29.1%                      |
| Baltimore City   | 1,018               | 465                     | 406                          | -          | 59                           | -          | 16                | 46.4%                      |
| Baltimore County | 1,550               | 548                     | 517                          | 3          | 28                           | -          | 18                | 35.8%                      |
| Calvert          | 176                 | 73                      | 73                           | -          | -                            | -          | -                 | 41.5%                      |
| Caroline         | 54                  | 34                      | 32                           | 1          | 1                            | -          | 2                 | 65.4%                      |
| Carroll          | 193                 | 57                      | 53                           | 3          | 1                            | -          | 1                 | 29.7%                      |
| Cecil            | 205                 | 63                      | 61                           | 2          | -                            | -          | -                 | 30.7%                      |
| Charles          | 246                 | 94                      | 76                           | 15         | 3                            | -          | 2                 | 38.5%                      |
| Dorchester       | 49                  | 24                      | 24                           | -          | -                            | -          | 3                 | 52.2%                      |
| Frederick        | 406                 | 222                     | 49                           | 166        | -                            | 7          | 1                 | 54.8%                      |
| Garrett          | 27                  | 26                      | 26                           | -          | -                            | -          | -                 | 96.3%                      |
| Harford          | 537                 | 149                     | 144                          | 3          | 2                            | -          | 9                 | 28.2%                      |
| Howard           | 530                 | 127                     | 119                          | 2          | 6                            | -          | 13                | 24.6%                      |
| Kent             | 36                  | 21                      | 19                           | -          | 2                            | -          | -                 | 58.3%                      |
| Montgomery       | 1,943               | 690                     | 573                          | 21         | 96                           | -          | 27                | 36.0%                      |
| Prince George's  | 1,765               | 821                     | 599                          | 80         | 138                          | 4          | 52                | 47.9%                      |
| Queen Anne's     | 88                  | 56                      | 50                           | 5          | 1                            | -          | 14                | 75.7%                      |
| St. Mary's       | 204                 | 98                      | 94                           | 3          | 1                            | -          | 6                 | 49.5%                      |
| Somerset         | 24                  | 11                      | 11                           | -          | -                            | -          | -                 | 45.8%                      |
| Talbot           | 68                  | 24                      | 17                           | -          | 7                            | -          | -                 | 35.3%                      |
| Washington       | 252                 | 115                     | 106                          | 1          | 8                            | -          | 2                 | 46.0%                      |
| Wicomico         | 141                 | 137                     | 134                          | -          | 3                            | -          | 4                 | 100.0%                     |
| Worcester        | 90                  | 28                      | 28                           | -          | -                            | -          | 4                 | 32.6%                      |
| Unknown*         | -                   | 8                       | 6                            | 2          | -                            | -          | -                 | -                          |

**\*Note:** "Unknown" responses are from individuals who did not enter their unique identifier when they completed the online survey, or used a copied version of the paper survey and/or scratched out the unique identifier so it could not be read.

## 2. Demographic Characteristics of Respondents' Children

Respondents were asked to indicate their child's age when first referred for early intervention services. A total of 4,208 respondents answered this question. Of the respondents who answered this question, 77.1% (n=3,248) indicated that their children had been referred to MITP between birth and age two, while 22.9% (n=964) of families were referred when their child was 2-3 years old.

The survey respondents reported that the majority of children in the sample that were receiving services were male (64.4%, n=2,788), while 1,542 of the respondent's children receiving services were female (35.6%). Respondents were asked to classify their relationship to the child receiving early intervention services (n=4,221). Overwhelmingly, mothers completed the survey (86.8%), followed by fathers (10.0%). Foster parents, grandparents and others accounted for the remaining 3.2% of respondents.

In addition to discussing the demographic characteristics of respondents' children, certain characteristics were analyzed and compared to the population for which the sample is drawn to determine if the sample is representative of the population. Demographic data for the population and most of the sample were obtained from the 2019 MSDE master file of families receiving early intervention services.

For the purpose of this report, a demographic group is classified as being overrepresented in the respondent sample if the percentage of that group in the sample is greater than its percentage in the population by at least 3 percentage points. Similarly, a demographic group is classified as being underrepresented in the sample if the difference between the percentage of that group in the sample is less than its percentage in the population by 3 percentage points or more. In Exhibits 2.1 and 2.2 differences of 3 percentage points or more are bolded, indicating areas in which the characteristics of children of parents or guardians who responded to the survey are different from the statewide population. If the difference between the sample and the statewide estimate is less than 3 percentage points in either direction, the respondent sample is not significantly different from the statewide population.

## 2.1 Race/Ethnicity

Exhibit 2.1 summarizes the race and ethnicity of the children of respondents. The two racial groups that account for the largest percentage of the respondent population are parents of White (43.4%) and Black or African-American children (29.3%). With regard to race/ethnicity, the survey respondents were relatively representative of the statewide population with none of the Race/Ethnicity categories in the sample being more than 3% different than that of the population.

**Exhibit 2.1: Race/Ethnicity: Comparison between Respondent Sample and Statewide Population\***

|  | Population<br>(N 11,029) |       | Respondents<br>(N 4,339) |       | Over (Under)<br>Representation |
|--|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------|-------|--------------------------------|
|  | N                        | %     | N                        | %     |                                |
| <b>Race/Ethnicity</b>                  |                          |       |                          |       |                                |
| White                                  | 4,506                    | 40.9% | 1,883                    | 43.4% | 2.54                           |
| Black or African-American              | 3,321                    | 30.1% | 1,270                    | 29.3% | -0.84                          |
| Hispanic or Latino                     | 1,985                    | 18.0% | 737                      | 17.0% | -1.01                          |
| Multi-racial                           | 651                      | 5.9%  | 252                      | 5.8%  | -0.09                          |
| Asian                                  | 549                      | 5.0%  | 178                      | 4.1%  | -0.88                          |
| Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander | 7                        | 0.1%  | 4                        | 0.1%  | 0.03                           |
| American Indian/Alaskan Native         | 10                       | 0.1%  | 3                        | 0.1%  | -0.02                          |
| Unknown*                               | -                        | -     | 12                       | 0.3%  | -                              |

\*Note: "Unknown" responses are from individuals who did not enter their unique identifier when they completed the online survey, and did not answer the question related to race/ethnicity.

## 2.2 Primary Exceptionality/Disability

Exhibit 2.2 summarizes the exceptionalities/disabilities of the children of survey respondents. According to statewide estimates, the most common exceptionality evident in the MITP population is a developmental delay of at least 25%, with 65.5% of the population reporting this disability. The second most common exceptionality or disability statewide is a physical or mental condition with likely developmental delay (25.8% of the population). The third category of exceptionalities, atypical development or behavior, constitutes 7.2% of the population. Parents of children who have at least 25% Development Delay (DD) were slightly underrepresented among survey respondents, as well as parents of children who have an Atypical Development or Behavior (AD/B). Parents of children Diagnosed Physical or Mental Condition with High Probability of Developmental Delay (DD) were slightly overrepresented by the survey. Only one group reached the 3% threshold, parents of children who have at least 25% Development Delay (DD), which accounted for the largest percentage of responses as well. Overall, the sample was representative of the population with regard to exceptionalities/disabilities of the students.

**Exhibit 2.2: Exceptionalities/Disabilities: Comparison between Respondent Sample and Statewide Estimate**

|  | Population<br>(N 11,027)* |              | Respondents<br>(N 4,276) |              | Over (Under)<br>Representation |
|--|---------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
|  | N                         | %†           | N                        | %†           |                                |
| <b>At Least 25% Developmental Delay (DD)</b>   | <b>7,581</b>              | <b>68.7%</b> | <b>2,841</b>             | <b>65.5%</b> | <b>-3.2</b>                    |
| Diagnosed Physical or Mental Condition with High Probability of Developmental Delay (DD) | 2,631                     | 23.9%        | 1,121                    | 25.8%        | 1.9                            |
| Atypical Development or Behavior (AD/B)  | 815                       | 7.4%         | 314                      | 7.2%         | -0.2                           |

Note: †Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding

Note: \*Two records in the data did not have this information listed.

## 2.3 Jurisdiction

Exhibit 2.3 summarizes how well each jurisdiction is represented in the sample. Survey respondents from Prince George's County are almost overrepresented, while survey respondents from Anne Arundel County are underrepresented in the sample by more than 3%.

**Exhibit 2.3: 2018-19 Survey Representativeness by Jurisdiction**

| Jurisdiction        | Active and Eligible Children |              | Survey Responses |             | Over or Under Representation |
|---------------------|------------------------------|--------------|------------------|-------------|------------------------------|
|                     | n*                           | % of Total   | n                | % of Total  | % pts                        |
| Prince George's     | 1,765                        | 16.0%        | 821              | 18.9%       | 2.9%                         |
| Wicomico            | 141                          | 1.3%         | 137              | 3.2%        | 1.9%                         |
| Baltimore City      | 1,018                        | 9.2%         | 465              | 10.7%       | 1.5%                         |
| Frederick           | 406                          | 3.7%         | 222              | 5.1%        | 1.4%                         |
| Allegany            | 104                          | 0.9%         | 71               | 1.6%        | 0.7%                         |
| Queen Anne's        | 88                           | 0.8%         | 56               | 1.3%        | 0.5%                         |
| Washington          | 252                          | 2.3%         | 115              | 2.7%        | 0.4%                         |
| Saint Mary's        | 204                          | 1.8%         | 98               | 2.3%        | 0.4%                         |
| Garrett             | 27                           | 0.2%         | 26               | 0.6%        | 0.4%                         |
| Caroline            | 54                           | 0.5%         | 34               | 0.8%        | 0.3%                         |
| Kent                | 36                           | 0.3%         | 21               | 0.5%        | 0.2%                         |
| Calvert             | 176                          | 1.6%         | 73               | 1.7%        | 0.1%                         |
| Dorchester          | 49                           | 0.4%         | 24               | 0.6%        | 0.1%                         |
| Somerset            | 24                           | 0.2%         | 11               | 0.3%        | 0.0%                         |
| Charles             | 246                          | 2.2%         | 94               | 2.2%        | -0.1%                        |
| Talbot              | 68                           | 0.6%         | 24               | 0.6%        | -0.1%                        |
| Worcester           | 90                           | 0.8%         | 28               | 0.6%        | -0.2%                        |
| Cecil               | 205                          | 1.9%         | 63               | 1.5%        | -0.4%                        |
| Carroll             | 193                          | 1.7%         | 57               | 1.3%        | -0.4%                        |
| Baltimore County    | 1,550                        | 14.1%        | 548              | 12.6%       | -1.4%                        |
| Harford             | 537                          | 4.9%         | 149              | 3.4%        | -1.4%                        |
| Montgomery          | 1,943                        | 17.6%        | 690              | 15.9%       | -1.7%                        |
| Howard              | 530                          | 4.8%         | 127              | 2.9%        | -1.9%                        |
| <b>Anne Arundel</b> | <b>1,323</b>                 | <b>12.0%</b> | <b>377</b>       | <b>8.7%</b> | <b>-3.3%</b>                 |

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

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

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



### 3. OSEP Indicator 4 Estimates

This section presents survey results for OSEP Indicator 4, the percentage of families who report that early intervention services have helped them know their rights; effectively communicate their children’s needs, and help their children develop and learn. Data are reported in relation to the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) targets established in Maryland’s State Performance Plan (SPP), as well as by respondent demographics and the Extended IFSP option.

Exhibit 3.1 displays 2018-19 results for Indicators 4a, 4b, and 4c, shown as the percentage of families who agreed, strongly agreed, or very strongly agreed to survey items 19, 17, and 21, respectively. As seen in the table, almost all respondents agreed with the indicator items. The percentages are well above the targets established in Maryland’s SPP.

**Exhibit 3.1: 2018-19 Actual and Target Data for Indicator 4**

| Indicator   | Measurement   | Actual                   | Target |
|---|---|--------------------------|--------|
| <b>4a-</b> Know their rights                              | # of families who agree, strongly, agree or very strongly agree to Q19 (early intervention services have helped me or my family know about my child’s and family’s rights) divided by the # of families who answered Q19                                      | 97.52%<br>(=4,172/4,278) | 91.0%  |
| <b>4b-</b> Effectively communicate their children’s needs | # of families who agree, strongly, agree or very strongly agree to Q17 (early intervention services have helped me or my family communicate more effectively with the people who work with my child and family) divided by the # of families who answered Q17 | 97.88%<br>(=4,165/4,255) | 90.0%  |
| <b>4c-</b> Help their children develop and learn          | # of families who agree, strongly, agree or very strongly agree to Q21 (early intervention services have helped me or my family understand my child’s special needs) divided by the # of families who answered Q21  | 98.15%<br>(=4,127/4,205) | 91.5%  |

Exhibit 3.2 displays the 2018-19 results for Indicator 4a (early intervention services have helped me or my family know about my child's and family's rights) by local jurisdiction and statewide. Jurisdictions with 100% agreement include Allegany, Garrett, Kent, and Talbot counties.

**Exhibit 3.2: 2018-19 Estimates for Part C Indicator 4a**

| Jurisdiction     | % Agreement   | N*           | Indicator 4a Std. error | Lower CI**    | Upper CI**    |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Statewide</b> | <b>97.52%</b> | <b>4,278</b> | <b>0.00</b>             | <b>97.52%</b> | <b>97.53%</b> |
| Allegany         | 100.00%       | 71           | 0.00                    | 99.57%        | 100.00%       |
| Anne Arundel     | 96.77%        | 372          | 0.00                    | 96.67%        | 96.87%        |
| Baltimore City   | 97.84%        | 462          | 0.00                    | 97.77%        | 97.90%        |
| Baltimore County | 97.42%        | 543          | 0.00                    | 97.36%        | 97.48%        |
| Calvert          | 92.96%        | 71           | 0.01                    | 92.16%        | 93.76%        |
| Caroline         | 97.06%        | 34           | 0.02                    | 95.53%        | 98.59%        |
| Carroll          | 94.64%        | 56           | 0.01                    | 93.68%        | 95.60%        |
| Cecil            | 98.39%        | 62           | 0.01                    | 97.74%        | 99.03%        |
| Charles          | 97.83%        | 92           | 0.00                    | 97.41%        | 98.25%        |
| Dorchester       | 95.83%        | 24           | 0.02                    | 93.35%        | 98.32%        |
| Frederick        | 98.17%        | 219          | 0.00                    | 98.03%        | 98.32%        |
| Garrett          | 100.00%       | 26           | 0.02                    | 98.17%        | 100.0%        |
| Harford          | 95.83%        | 144          | 0.00                    | 95.53%        | 96.14%        |
| Howard           | 98.40%        | 125          | 0.00                    | 98.13%        | 98.67%        |
| Kent             | 100.00%       | 19           | 0.03                    | 97.16%        | 100.0%        |
| Montgomery       | 97.79%        | 680          | 0.00                    | 97.75%        | 97.84%        |
| Prince George's  | 97.76%        | 805          | 0.00                    | 97.73%        | 97.80%        |
| Queen Anne's     | 98.21%        | 56           | 0.01                    | 97.46%        | 98.96%        |
| Saint Mary's     | 96.94%        | 98           | 0.00                    | 96.51%        | 97.37%        |
| Somerset         | 81.82%        | 11           | 0.08                    | 73.99%        | 89.65%        |
| Talbot           | 100.00%       | 24           | 0.02                    | 97.95%        | 100.0%        |
| Washington       | 98.25%        | 114          | 0.00                    | 97.94%        | 98.55%        |
| Wicomico         | 99.26%        | 136          | 0.00                    | 99.06%        | 99.47%        |
| Worcester        | 96.15%        | 26           | 0.02                    | 93.93%        | 98.38%        |

**Note:** \*The Ns will not add up to the statewide total, due to responses from families that did not indicate their county but responded to the question.

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

Exhibit 3.3 displays 2018-19 results for Indicator 4b (early intervention services have helped me or my family communicate more effectively with the people who work with my child and family) by local jurisdiction and statewide. Jurisdictions with 100% agreement include Cecil, Dorchester, Garrett, Kent and Talbot counties.

**Exhibit 3.3: 2018-19 Estimates for Part C Indicator 4b**

| Jurisdiction     | % Agreement   | N*           | Indicator 4b Std. error | Lower CI**    | Upper CI**    |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Statewide</b> | <b>97.88%</b> | <b>4,255</b> | <b>0.00</b>             | <b>97.88%</b> | <b>97.89%</b> |
| Allegany         | 98.59%        | 71           | 0.01                    | 98.06%        | 99.12%        |
| Anne Arundel     | 97.55%        | 368          | 0.00                    | 97.46%        | 97.64%        |
| Baltimore City   | 98.49%        | 463          | 0.00                    | 98.43%        | 98.55%        |
| Baltimore County | 98.88%        | 537          | 0.00                    | 98.84%        | 98.93%        |
| Calvert          | 94.29%        | 70           | 0.01                    | 93.53%        | 95.04%        |
| Caroline         | 93.94%        | 33           | 0.02                    | 92.12%        | 95.76%        |
| Carroll          | 94.44%        | 54           | 0.01                    | 93.44%        | 95.45%        |
| Cecil            | 100.00%       | 61           | 0.01                    | 99.46%        | 100.00%       |
| Charles          | 96.81%        | 94           | 0.00                    | 96.35%        | 97.26%        |
| Dorchester       | 100.00%       | 24           | 0.02                    | 97.95%        | 100.00%       |
| Frederick        | 97.26%        | 219          | 0.00                    | 97.09%        | 97.43%        |
| Garrett          | 100.00%       | 25           | 0.02                    | 98.06%        | 100.00%       |
| Harford          | 98.61%        | 144          | 0.00                    | 98.39%        | 98.83%        |
| Howard           | 97.54%        | 122          | 0.00                    | 97.23%        | 97.85%        |
| Kent             | 100.00%       | 20           | 0.03                    | 97.36%        | 100.00%       |
| Montgomery       | 97.93%        | 676          | 0.00                    | 97.89%        | 97.97%        |
| Prince George's  | 98.13%        | 804          | 0.00                    | 98.10%        | 98.17%        |
| Queen Anne's     | 98.21%        | 56           | 0.01                    | 97.46%        | 98.96%        |
| Saint Mary's     | 97.94%        | 97           | 0.00                    | 97.55%        | 98.33%        |
| Somerset         | 81.82%        | 11           | 0.08                    | 73.99%        | 89.65%        |
| Talbot           | 100.00%       | 24           | 0.02                    | 97.95%        | 100.00%       |
| Washington       | 97.32%        | 112          | 0.00                    | 96.97%        | 97.67%        |
| Wicomico         | 98.52%        | 135          | 0.00                    | 98.28%        | 98.76%        |
| Worcester        | 92.59%        | 27           | 0.02                    | 90.18%        | 95.00%        |

**Note:** \*The Ns will not add up to the statewide total, due to responses from families that did not indicate their county but responded to the question.

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

Exhibit 3.4 displays 2018-19 results for Indicator 4c (early intervention services have helped me or my family understand my child's special needs) by local jurisdiction and statewide. Jurisdictions with 100% agreement include Caroline, Dorchester, Garrett, Kent, and Talbot counties.

**Exhibit 3.4: 2018-19 Estimates for Part C Indicator 4c**

| Jurisdiction     | % Agreement   | N*           | Indicator 4c Std. error | Lower CI**    | Upper CI**    |
|------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Statewide</b> | <b>98.15%</b> | <b>4,205</b> | <b>0.00</b>             | <b>98.14%</b> | <b>98.15%</b> |
| Allegany         | 98.57%        | 70           | 0.01                    | 98.03%        | 99.11%        |
| Anne Arundel     | 97.48%        | 357          | 0.00                    | 97.39%        | 97.57%        |
| Baltimore City   | 99.13%        | 461          | 0.00                    | 99.08%        | 99.18%        |
| Baltimore County | 98.12%        | 533          | 0.00                    | 98.07%        | 98.18%        |
| Calvert          | 95.77%        | 71           | 0.01                    | 95.09%        | 96.46%        |
| Caroline         | 100.00%       | 34           | 0.01                    | 98.75%        | 100.00%       |
| Carroll          | 92.59%        | 54           | 0.01                    | 91.50%        | 93.69%        |
| Cecil            | 98.33%        | 60           | 0.01                    | 97.66%        | 99.01%        |
| Charles          | 96.74%        | 92           | 0.00                    | 96.27%        | 97.21%        |
| Dorchester       | 100.00%       | 24           | 0.02                    | 97.95%        | 100.00%       |
| Frederick        | 95.85%        | 217          | 0.00                    | 95.66%        | 96.05%        |
| Garrett          | 100.00%       | 25           | 0.02                    | 98.06%        | 100.00%       |
| Harford          | 97.83%        | 138          | 0.00                    | 97.57%        | 98.08%        |
| Howard           | 96.72%        | 122          | 0.00                    | 96.38%        | 97.06%        |
| Kent             | 100.00%       | 20           | 0.03                    | 97.36%        | 100.00%       |
| Montgomery       | 99.25%        | 667          | 0.00                    | 99.22%        | 99.28%        |
| Prince George's  | 98.74%        | 795          | 0.00                    | 98.71%        | 98.77%        |
| Queen Anne's     | 98.11%        | 53           | 0.01                    | 97.30%        | 98.92%        |
| Saint Mary's     | 95.88%        | 97           | 0.00                    | 95.40%        | 96.35%        |
| Somerset         | 81.82%        | 11           | 0.08                    | 73.99%        | 89.65%        |
| Talbot           | 100.00%       | 24           | 0.02                    | 97.95%        | 100.00%       |
| Washington       | 98.23%        | 113          | 0.00                    | 97.92%        | 98.54%        |
| Wicomico         | 99.24%        | 132          | 0.00                    | 99.03%        | 99.46%        |
| Worcester        | 96.30%        | 27           | 0.02                    | 94.18%        | 98.41%        |

**Note:** \*The Ns will not add up to the statewide total, due to responses from families that did not indicate their county but responded to the question.

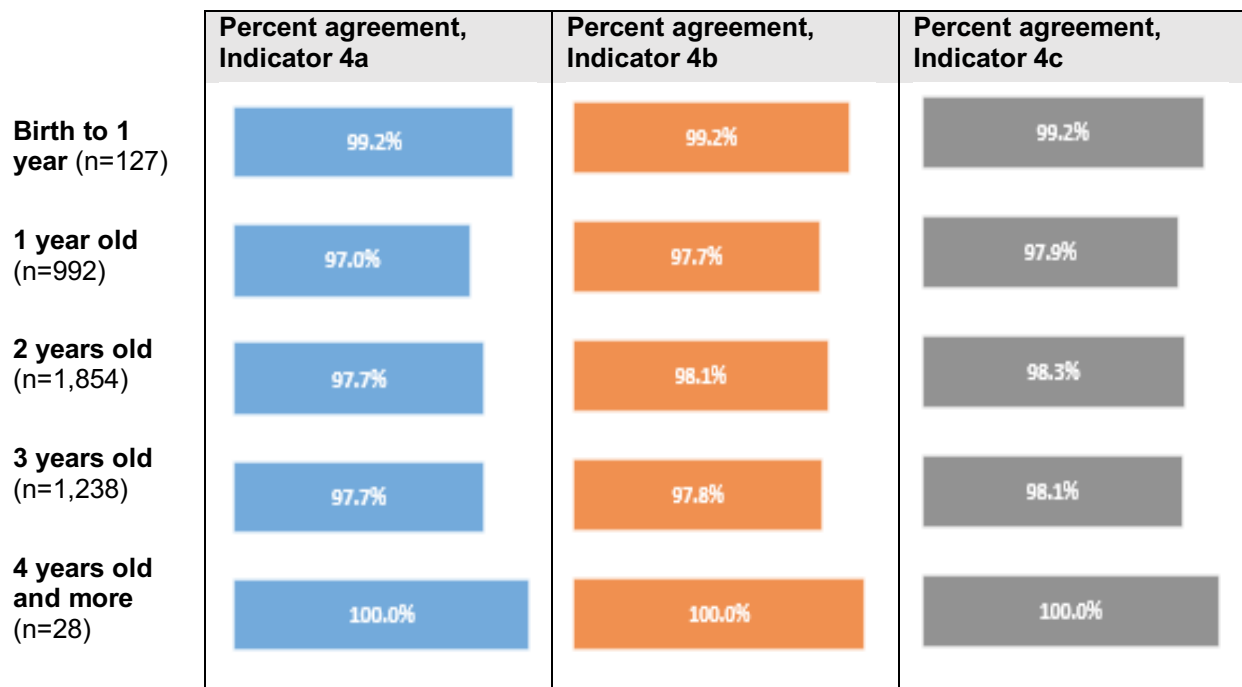
**Note:** \*\*Confidence intervals are calculated at a 95% Confidence Level

## 4. OSEP Indicator 4 Estimates by Demographic Characteristics

The figures on the following pages show the differences in Indicator 4 results across key demographics: age of child at time of survey response and at time of referral, gender of child, survey language, length of time in program, extended IFSP option, race/ethnicity of families, respondent relationship to child, and eligibility determination.

**Age of Child at Time of Survey Response:** In this year's survey, families of children aged 4 years or more tend to show the highest levels of agreement across all indicators (at 100%), followed by those with children birth to 1 year old. The lowest levels of agreement tend to be with families of children aged 1 year old (97 percent) across all indicators.

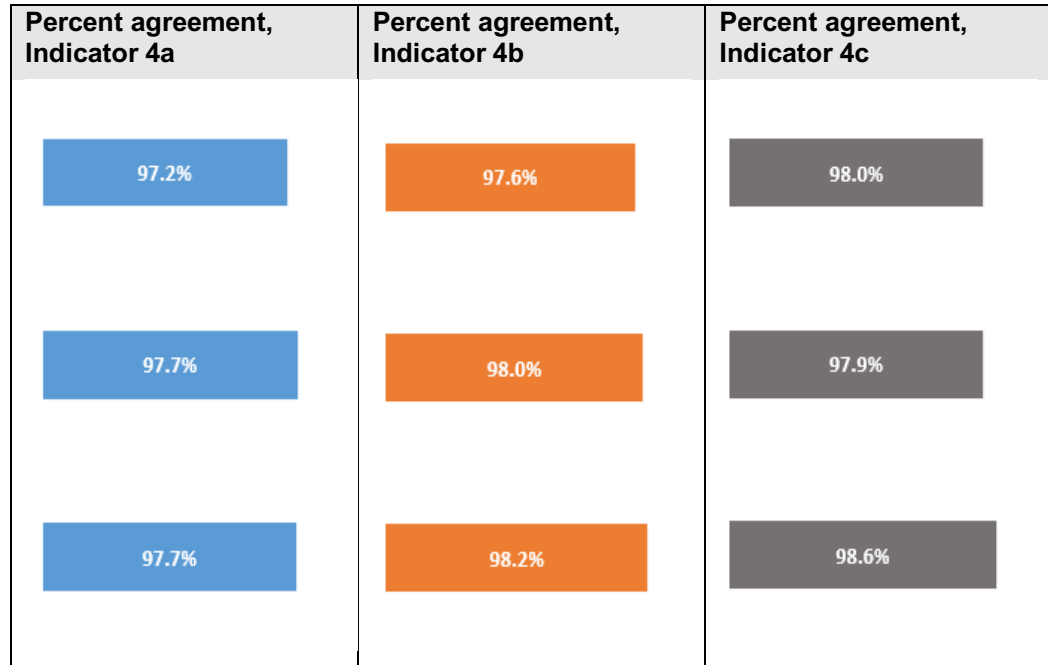
**Exhibit 4.1: FFY 2018 Indicator 4 Results by Age of Child at Time of Survey Response**



**Note:** Bar charts display the % of families who agreed, strongly agreed, or very strongly agreed with items 19, 17, and 21, respectively. The "n" represents the average number of respondents in each category.

**Age of Child at Referral:** There were no discernable differences in agreement levels (less than 1 percentage point) between families who were referred birth to one year, 1-2 years, or 2-3 years of age. However, the percentage of agreement on all three indicators was highest for families referred to early intervention services between 2-3 years of age.

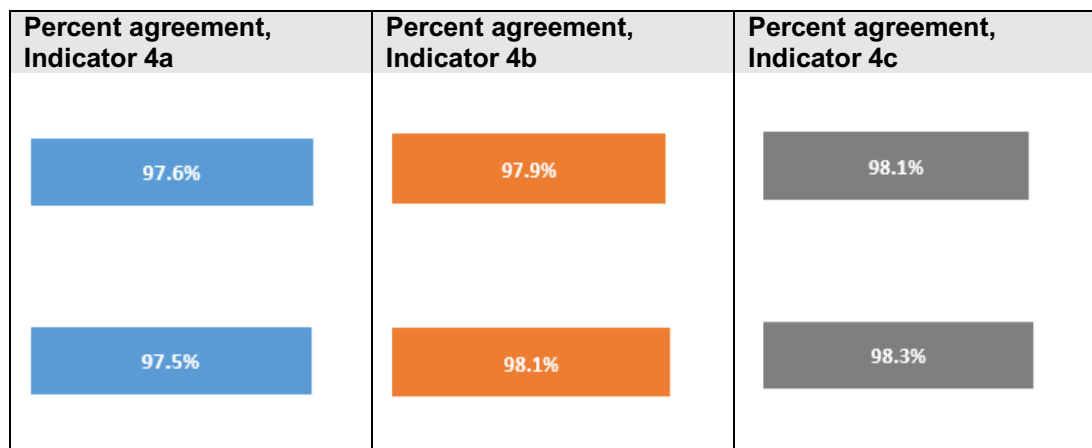
**Exhibit 4.2: FFY 2018 Indicator 4 Results by Age of Child at Referral**



**Note:** Bar charts display the % of families who agreed, strongly agreed, or very strongly agreed with items 19, 17, and 21, respectively. The “n” represents the average number of respondents across each category.

**Gender of Child:** There were no discernable differences in agreement levels (less than 1 percentage point) between families of male children and families of female children receiving early intervention services.

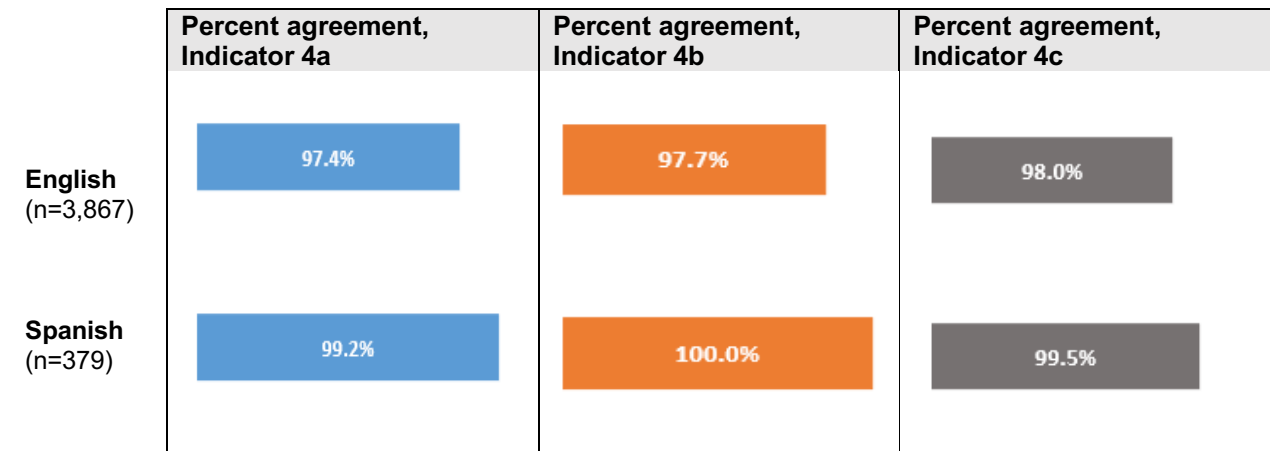
**Exhibit 4.3: FFY 2018 Indicator 4 Results by Gender of Child**



**Note:** Bar charts display the % of families who agreed, strongly agreed, or very strongly agreed with items 19, 17, and 21, respectively. The “n” represents the average number of respondents across each category.

**Survey Language:** Families who responded to the survey in Spanish had a higher percentage of agreement over all three indicators. The greatest difference between English and Spanish homes was related to Indicator 4b (2.3 percentage points).

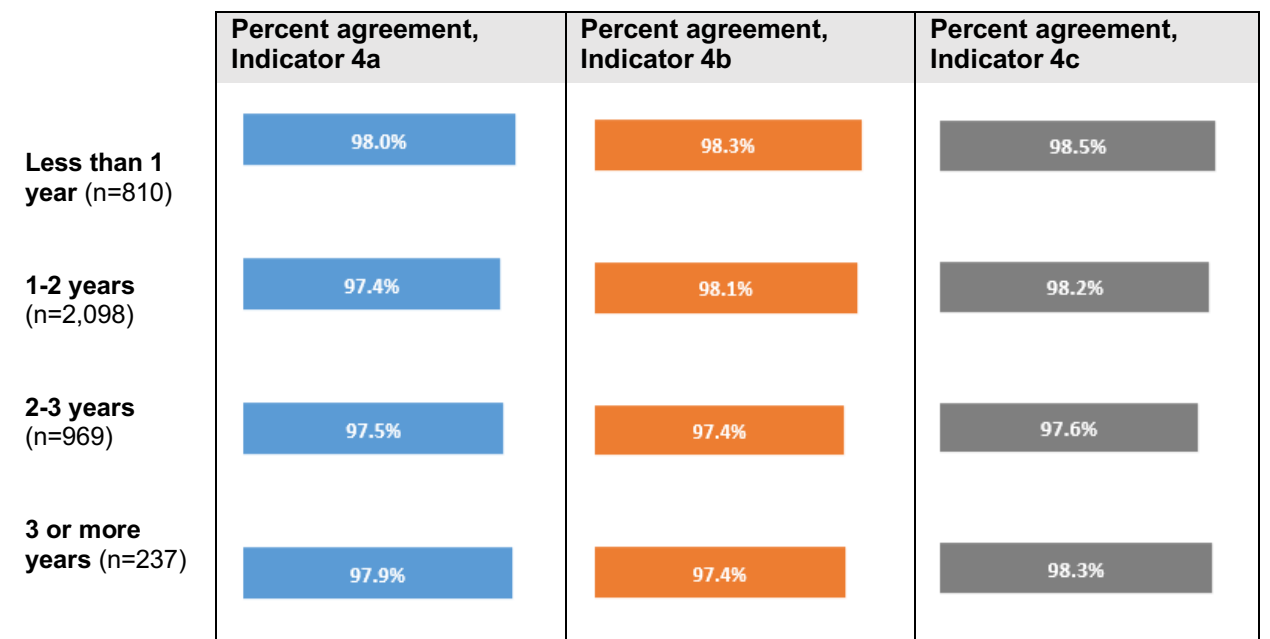
**Exhibit 4.4: FFY 2018 Indicator 4 Results by Survey Language**



**Note:** Bar charts display the % of families who agreed, strongly agreed, or very strongly agreed with items 19, 17, and 21, respectively. The “n” represents the average number of respondents across each category.

**Length of Time in Part C.** There were no discernable differences in agreement levels (less than 1 percentage point) between families regardless of the time in the program.

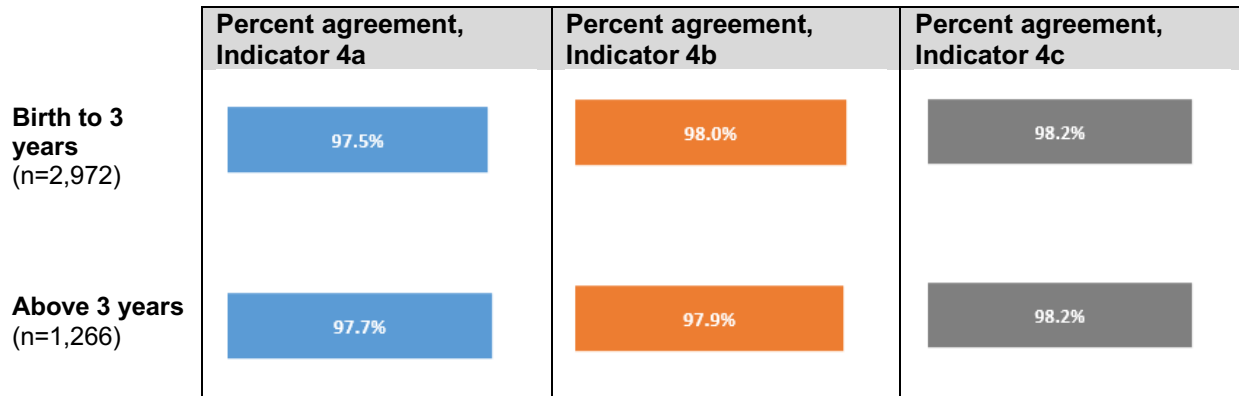
**Exhibit 4.5: FFY 2018 Indicator 4 Results by Length of Time in Part C**



**Note:** Bar charts display the % of families who agreed, strongly agreed, or very strongly agreed with items 19, 17, and 21, respectively. The “n” represents the average number of respondents across each category.

**Extended IFSP Option:** The following exhibit presents differences in Indicator 4 results for families of children currently up to three years of age, compared to families of children above 3 years old. Families with children ages three and four years are eligible to receive services through the Extended IFSP option. There were no discernable differences in agreement levels (less than 1 percentage point) between families with children birth to 3 years and those above 3 years old.

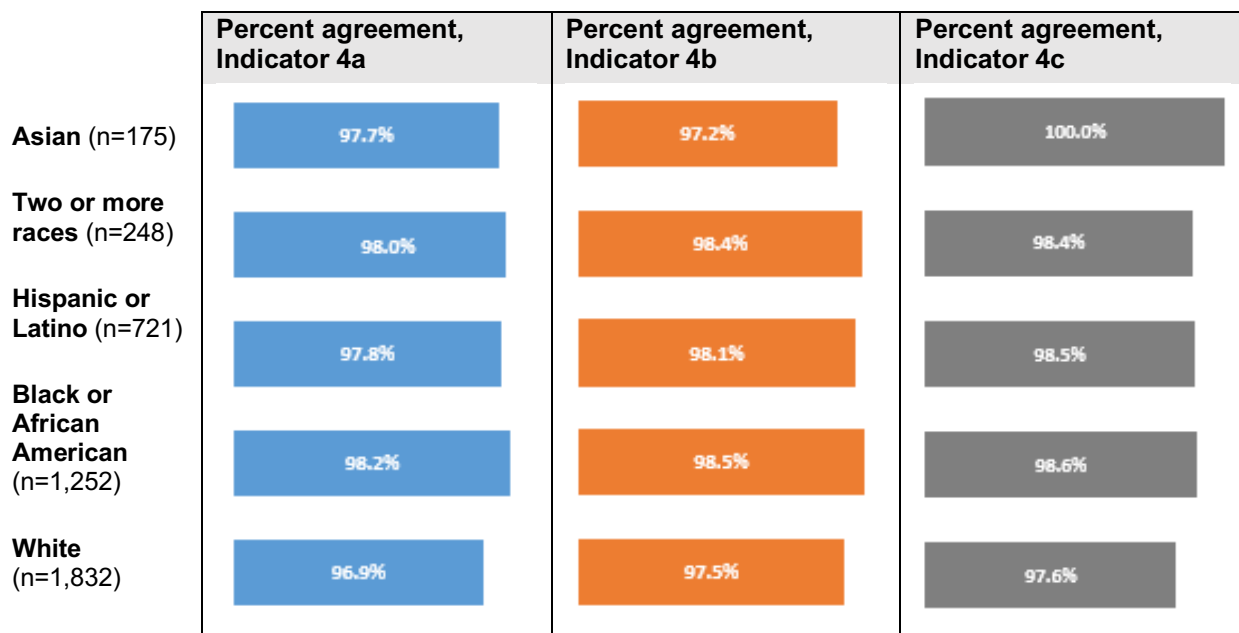
**Exhibit 4.6: FFY 2018 Indicator 4 Results by Extended IFSP Option**



**Note:** Bar charts display the % of families who agreed, strongly agreed, or very strongly agreed with items 19, 17, and 21, respectively. The “n” represents the average number of respondents across each category.

**Race/Ethnicity of Families Responding:** There were differing patterns of agreement to the indicators related to race/ethnicity, depending on the indicator. Indicator 4c showed the highest levels of agreement by Asian families (100%) and the lowest levels of agreement for White families (97.6%). It also should be noted that the Asian group was relatively small (n=175). There were very small differences in levels of agreement (1 to 1.3 percentage points) for all three indicators between the two largest groups: Blacks and Whites. Aside from the Asian responses, participants of two or more races and of Hispanic or Latino families tended to be in agreement across all Indicators, with less than a .4 percentage difference.

**Exhibit 4.7: FFY 2018 Indicator 4 Results by Race/Ethnicity of Families Responding**

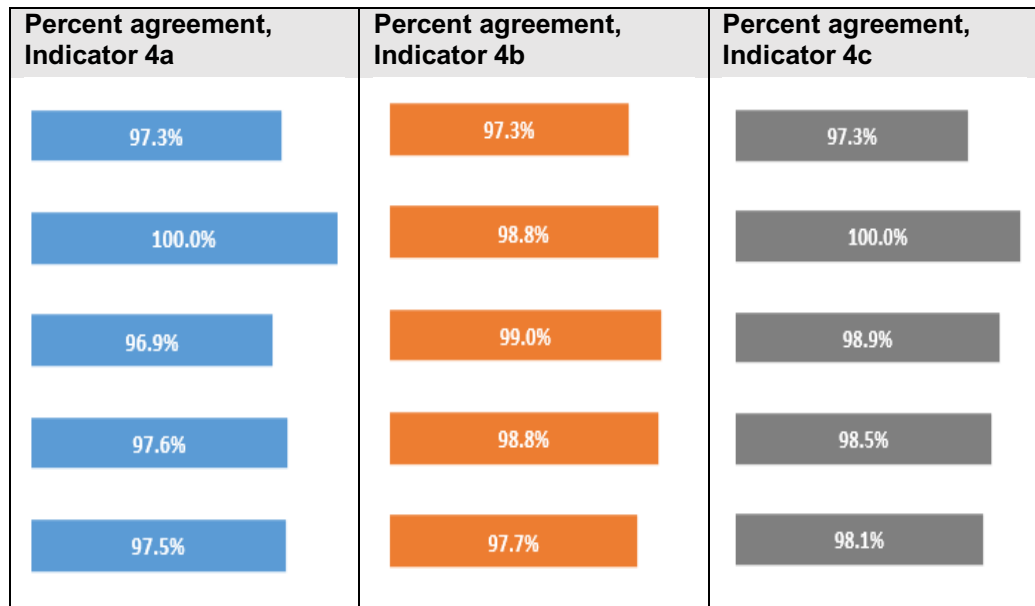


**Note:** Bar charts display the % of families who agreed, strongly agreed, or very strongly agreed with items 19, 17, and 21, respectively. The “n” represents the average number of respondents across each category.



**Relationship of Respondent to the Child:** Foster parents had the highest level of agreement with Indicators 4a and 4c (100%). Grandparents had the highest level of agreement with Indicator 4b (99%) and the lowest for Indicator 4a (96.9%). Overall, “other” respondents had among the lowest levels of agreement across all indicators, but they were the smallest group (n=37). Among the largest groups of respondents (fathers and mothers), there was only a slight difference in level of agreement (less than 1 percentage point) for Indicators 4a and 4c and a difference of 1.1 percentage points on Indicator 4b.

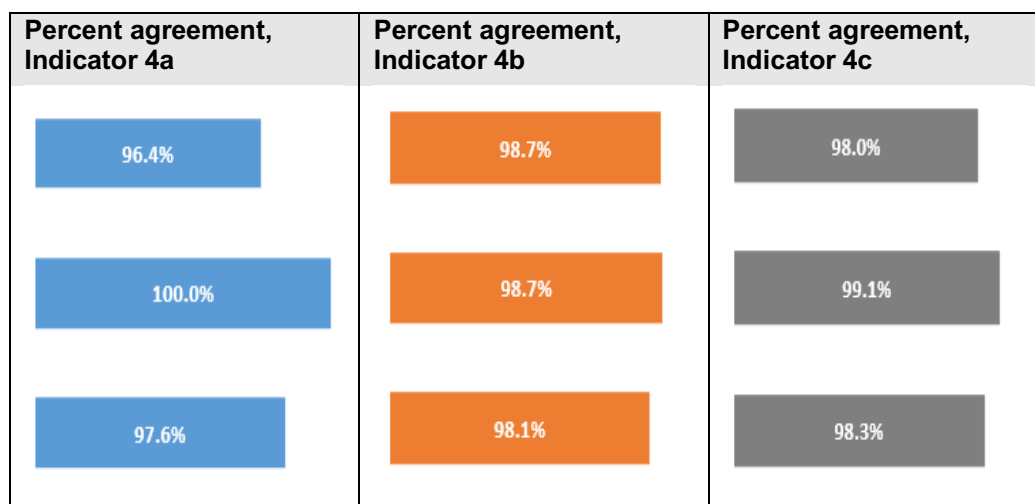
**Exhibit 4.8: FFY 2018 Indicator 4 Results by Relationship of Respondent to the Child**



**Note:** Bar charts display the % of families who agreed, strongly agreed, or very strongly agreed with items 19, 17, and 21, respectively. The “n” represents the average number of respondents across each category.

**Eligibility Category:** When comparing the different eligibility determinations, parents of students diagnosed with a physical or mental condition tended to rate all three Indicators the highest. Parents of students with Atypical Development or Behavior also rated Indicator 4b the highest, and Indicators 4a and 4c the lowest out of all three groups. The greatest difference (between 2.4 and 3.6 percentage points) was between the different eligibility determinations for Indicator 4a.

**Exhibit 4.9: FFY 2018 Indicator 4 Results by Eligibility Determination**



**Note:** Bar charts display the % of families who agreed, strongly agreed, or very strongly agreed with items 19, 17, and 21, respectively. The “n” represents the average number of respondents across each category.

## 5. Summary of Responses to All Survey Items

The survey asked respondents to state the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with 24 statements about the early intervention services their child/children receive. Exhibit 5.1 shows that families are generally satisfied with the services they received from their LITPs. The majority of parents agreed with each item on the survey, including 21 items where at least 95% of respondents agreed. The statement with the highest percentage of agreement (99%) was item 20: *“Over the past year, early intervention services have helped me and/or my family do things with and for my child that are good for my child’s development.”*

Statements with the lowest percentage of agreement were less specific and related to activities, services, and family needs. The statement with the lowest percentage of agreement (94.1%) was item 3: *“Over the past year, early intervention services have helped me and/or my family participate in typical activities for children and families in my community.”*

**Exhibit 5.1: Summary of Responses to Survey Items**

| Over the past year, early intervention services have helped me and/or my family:  | n     | Very Strongly Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Agree | Strongly Agree | Very Strongly Agree | TOTAL AGREE |
|---|-------|------------------------|-------------------|----------|-------|----------------|---------------------|-------------|
| 3. participate in typical activities for children and families in my community.   | 4,213 | 0.9%                   | 0.5%              | 4.5%     | 30.9% | 20.0%          | 43.2%               | 94.1%       |
| 4. know about services in the community.  | 4,250 | 0.5%                   | 0.6%              | 4.4%     | 28.8% | 22.5%          | 43.2%               | 94.5%       |
| 5. know where to go for support to meet my child’s needs.                         | 4,277 | 0.5%                   | 0.3%              | 2.8%     | 26.0% | 23.5%          | 46.9%               | 96.4%       |
| 6. know where to go for support to meet my family’s needs.                        | 4,222 | 0.5%                   | 0.4%              | 4.9%     | 29.6% | 22.3%          | 42.2%               | 94.2%       |
| 7. get the services that my child and family need.                                | 4,280 | 0.5%                   | 0.4%              | 1.9%     | 24.2% | 21.8%          | 51.2%               | 97.2%       |
| 8. feel more confident in my skills as a parent.                                  | 4,294 | 0.4%                   | 0.4%              | 1.7%     | 23.1% | 23.8%          | 50.6%               | 97.5%       |
| 9. make changes in family routines that will benefit my child with special needs. | 4,195 | 0.3%                   | 0.5%              | 2.1%     | 24.7% | 23.4%          | 49.1%               | 97.2%       |
| 10. be more effective in managing my child’s behavior.                            | 4,190 | 0.5%                   | 0.3%              | 2.8%     | 28.4% | 24.2%          | 43.8%               | 96.4%       |
| 11. do activities that are good for my child even in times of stress.             | 4,214 | 0.4%                   | 0.3%              | 2.7%     | 27.3% | 24.6%          | 44.8%               | 96.6%       |
| 12. feel that I can get the services and supports that my child and family need.  | 4,284 | 0.5%                   | 0.4%              | 1.8%     | 23.6% | 23.4%          | 50.4%               | 97.4%       |
| 13. understand how the early intervention system works.                           | 4,304 | 0.4%                   | 0.4%              | 1.5%     | 23.7% | 23.3%          | 50.7%               | 97.7%       |
| 14. be able to evaluate how much progress my child is making.                     | 4,298 | 0.4%                   | 0.2%              | 1.3%     | 21.9% | 23.2%          | 53.0%               | 98.1%       |
| 15. feel that my child will be accepted and welcomed in the community.            | 4,198 | 0.3%                   | 0.3%              | 1.4%     | 24.4% | 21.7%          | 52.0%               | 98.1%       |
| 16. feel that my family will be accepted and welcomed in the community.           | 4,182 | 0.3%                   | 0.4%              | 1.5%     | 25.2% | 21.3%          | 51.4%               | 97.9%       |

| Over the past year, early intervention services have helped me and/or my family:  | n     | Very Strongly Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Disagree | Agree | Strongly Agree | Very Strongly Agree | TOTAL AGREE |
|---|-------|------------------------|-------------------|----------|-------|----------------|---------------------|-------------|
| <b>17. communicate more effectively with the people who work with my child and family. (4b)</b>   | 4,255 | 0.3%                   | 0.3%              | 1.5%     | 22.8% | 23.7%          | 51.4%               | 97.9%       |
| 18. understand the roles of the people who work with my child and family.   | 4,265 | 0.2%                   | 0.2%              | 1.3%     | 23.3% | 23.1%          | 51.9%               | 98.3%       |
| <b>19. know about my child's and family's rights concerning early intervention services. (4a)</b>   | 4,278 | 0.4%                   | 0.4%              | 1.7%     | 23.7% | 22.4%          | 51.4%               | 97.5%       |
| 20. do things with and for my child that are good for my child's development.   | 4,300 | 0.4%                   | 0.1%              | 0.4%     | 18.8% | 21.6%          | 58.7%               | 99.0%       |
| <b>21. understand my child's special needs. (4c)</b>  | 4,205 | 0.4%                   | 0.2%              | 1.3%     | 22.6% | 22.1%          | 53.5%               | 98.1%       |
| 22. feel that my efforts are helping my child.  | 4,298 | 0.4%                   | 0.2%              | 0.8%     | 20.1% | 22.4%          | 56.2%               | 98.7%       |
| 23. figure out solutions to problems as they come up.   | 4,269 | 0.4%                   | 0.2%              | 1.2%     | 23.4% | 24.6%          | 50.2%               | 98.2%       |
| 24. feel that I can handle the challenges of parenting a child with special needs.  | 4,115 | 0.5%                   | 0.3%              | 1.3%     | 24.6% | 23.5%          | 48.8%               | 97.0%       |
| <b>Parents completed the following questions if their child turned 3 years old before July 1, 2019 and their family continued to receive early intervention services through an Extended Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).</b> |       |                        |                   |          |       |                |                     |             |
| 25. understand my options in order to make the best choice for my child and family to continue services through an extended IFSP or move to services through an IEP*  | 1,567 | 0.1%                   | 0.1%              | 2.0%     | 21.8% | 22.3%          | 53.7%               | 97.8%       |
| 26. support my child to be ready for school by assisting me to teach my child pre-reading activities (such as naming pictures) and pre-math activities (such as sorting household items).*  | 1,489 | 0.1%                   | 0.4%              | 2.1%     | 25.1% | 21.6%          | 50.8%               | 97.4%       |

\*Note: State-provided demographic data were used to exclude inappropriate respondents (families whose child was not age three by the July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 cut-off date).

## 6. Historical Trends

The following section presents data comparing overall survey response rates and OSEP Indicator 4 results from FFY 2005 to FFY 2018.

### Response Rate

Between FFY 2005-08, an average 6,699 surveys were distributed annually. During the subsequent four years, the average number of surveys increased to 8,598. From FFY 2013-15, the average number of surveys distributed increased to 9,457. One reason for the observed growth in survey distribution is Maryland's implementation of the Extended IFSP Option in FFY 2009; a programmatic change that increased the overall population of eligible children in the state.

From 2005-08, the average response rate was 23.6%. In the following four years, 2009-12, the response rate grew to 43.3%. From 2013 to the present, the average response rate increased more gradually to 46.0% in 2016-17. While we saw a 9.8% decline in responses last year from the previous year, for the 2018-19 year we have an increase of 3.9 percentage points.

**Exhibit 6.1: Survey Response Rate by Federal Fiscal Year**

| Federal Fiscal Year | Surveys Sent | Surveys Completed | Adjusted Response Rate* |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| 2005                | 6,508        | 1,275             | 19.6%                   |
| 2006                | 6,395        | 1,476             | 23.1%                   |
| 2007                | 7,078        | 1,570             | 22.2%                   |
| 2008                | 6,813        | 2,017             | 29.6%                   |
| 2009                | 8,109        | 3,384             | 41.7%                   |
| 2010                | 9,036        | 3,589             | 39.7%                   |
| 2011                | 8,650        | 4,042             | 46.7%                   |
| 2012                | 8,862        | 3,989             | 45.0%                   |
| 2013                | 9,330        | 4,029             | 43.2%                   |
| 2014                | 9,444        | 4,443             | 47.0%                   |
| 2015                | 9,599        | 4,284             | 46.0%                   |
| 2016                | 10,455       | 4,698             | 46.0%                   |
| 2017                | 10,625       | 3,803             | 36.2%                   |
| 2018                | 11,029       | 4,339             | 40.1%                   |

\* Adjusted Response Rate = Number of Surveys Completed / (Number of Surveys Mailed – Number of Surveys Returned Undeliverable)

## OSEP Indicator 4

The figures below show the target and actual percentage agreement with Indicators 4a, 4b, and 4c. From 2010-18, the actual percentage agreement for all three indicators have remained well above the annual targets established in Maryland's SPP. For Indicators 4a the value of the indicator is 6.5 percentage points above the state target, for Indicator 4b it is 7.9 percentage points above the state target, while for 4c, the actual percentage agreement value is 6.7 percentage points higher than the target.

