Report on Part C Indicator 4 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)

MSDE Final Report 2022–2023

Division of Early Intervention and Special Education Services

February 9, 2024

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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 2022-23. 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 2022-23. The Survey was launched in mid-October and closed at the beginning of December.

As in prior years, the 2022-23 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 presents 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 2022-23, a total of 12,100 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 Early Intervention and Special Education 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. Directors were responsible for distributing the surveys to families via direct mail or in-person visits. 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.

Three response rate reports were submitted to MSDE on November 11, November 28, and December 17, 2023. The last surveys to be included in this report arrived at ICF's office by December 8, 2023.

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 12,100 surveys were distributed to families. In total 3,636 completed surveys were returned – resulting in an adjusted response rate of 30.5% (which is a decrease of 2 percentage points from last year).

Ten jurisdictions achieved an adjusted response rate of at least 40%, and 23 jurisdictions (96% of all local jurisdictions) achieved a response rate[1] of at least 20% (the response rate of the previous year). The jurisdictions with the highest adjusted response rates (above 40%) were:

- Garrett County (102%)[2]

- Wicomico County (94%)

- Dorchester County (72%)

- Queen Anne's County (62%)

- Caroline County (58%)

- Carroll County (56%)

- Kent County (54%)

- Washington County (53%)

- Calvert County (46%)

- Howard County (44%)

Response rate data by county is presented in Exhibit 1.1.

Statewide, 3,419 surveys were completed in English (94.0%) and 217 surveys were completed in Spanish (6.0%). In 7 of the 24 jurisdictions, there were no surveys completed in Spanish. Overall, paper surveys were more common than online surveys, but the percentage of online surveys is increasing. A total of 2,138 paper surveys were completed (58.8%), while 1,498 surveys were completed online (41.2%).

A total of 197 surveys (1.6%) were undeliverable because the addresses were out of date or inaccurate. Washington County (n=18; 9.3% undeliverable) had the highest percentage of undeliverable surveys. Other counties with a high percentage of undeliverables (defined as more than 4%), were Charles (n=21; 7.3%) and Kent (n=2; 6.7%). Notably these percentages are due to the small number of surveys sent. For questions regarding Virtual Data file construction and submission, please contact:

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[1] Adjusted Response Rate = Number of Surveys Completed/(Number of Surveys Mailed – Number of Surveys Returned Undeliverable)

[2] The response rate for Garrett County exceeding 100% indicates that parents took the survey online, as well as submitted a paper copy.

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)		
Statewide	**12,100**	**3,636**	**1,978**	**1,441**	**160**	**57**	**197**	**30.5%**
Allegany	157	43	19	24	-	-	2	27.7%
Anne Arundel	1,280	116	83	31	2	-	32	9.3%
Baltimore City	1,207	397	291	82	9	15		32.9%
Baltimore County	1,733	415	248	137	24	6	22	24.3%
Calvert	188	85	42	38	5	-	5	46.4%
Caroline	89	51	42	6	3	-	1	58.0%
Carroll	219	123	33	90	-	-	1	56.4%
Cecil	241	76	69	7	-	-	4	32.1%
Charles	289	88	57	27	3	1	21	32.8%
Dorchester	74	52	42	10	-	-	2	72.2%
Frederick	488	152	41	108	1	2	5	31.5%
Garrett	57	58	58	-	-	-		101.8%[3]
Harford	580	193	90	97	5	1	5	33.6%
Howard	718	312	165	136	10	1	8	43.9%
Kent	30	15	5	10	-	-	2	53.6%
Montgomery	2,185	456	191	231	26	8	35	21.2%
Prince George's	1,674	518	157	297	46	18	29	31.5%
Queen Anne's	83	51	33	16	2	-	1	62.2%
St. Mary's	240	71	68	1	2	-	4	30.1%
Somerset	20	5	4	-	1	-		25.0%
Talbot	81	26	9	1	16	-		32.1%
Washington	193	93	62	29	2	-	18	53.1%
Wicomico	183	172	169	-	3	-		94.0%
Worcester	91	25	-	25	-	-		27.5%
Unknown*	-	43	-	38	-	5		NA

*Note: "Unknown" responses are from individuals who did not enter their unique identifier when they completed the online survey or where their unique identifier was damaged in the mailing for the paper survey.

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[3] The response rate for Garrett County exceeding 100% indicates that parents took the survey online, as well as submitted a paper copy.

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 3,623 respondents answered this question. Of the respondents who responded, 78.9% (n=2,857) indicated that their children had been referred to MITP between birth and age two, while 21.1% (n=766) of families were referred when their child was 2-3 years old.

The survey respondents reported that the majority of children in the sample receiving services were male (63.4%, n=2,284), while 1,321 of the respondent's children receiving services were female (36.6%). Respondents were asked to classify their relationship to the child receiving early intervention services (n=3,596 answered this question). Overwhelmingly, mothers completed the survey (86.6%), followed by fathers (9.2%). Foster parents, grandparents and others accounted for the remaining 4.2% 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 2022 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 greater. 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 (42.2%) and Black or African American children (28.7%). Regarding race/ethnicity, parents of White children were overrepresented by 6.7 percentage points. Black or African Americans survey respondents were underrepresented by 3.5.

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

	Population (N=12,100)		Respondents (N=3,599)		Over (Under) Representation
	N	%	N	%	
Race/Ethnicity					
White	**4,338**	**35.9%**	**1,534**	**42.6%**	**6.7**
Black or African American	**3,894**	**32.2%**	**1044**	**28.7%**	**(3.5)**
Hispanic or Latino	2,295	19.0%	588	16.2%	(2.8)
Multi-racial	945	7.8%	280	7.7%	(0.11)
Asian	608	5.0%	147	4.0%	(0.98)
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	10	0.1%	4	0.1%	0.03
American Indian/Alaskan Native	10	0.1%	2	0.1%	(0.03)
Unknown*	-	-	0	0.0%	-

*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 68.3% of the population reporting this disability. The second most common exceptionality or disability statewide is a physical or mental condition with likely developmental delay (21.9% of the population). The third category of exceptionalities, atypical development or behavior, constitutes 4.9% of the population. Parents of children who have at least 25% Development Delay (DD) were underrepresented by 6 percentage points, which accounted for the largest percentage of responses. The second most common exceptionality or disability, physical or mental condition with likely developmental delay was slightly overrepresented, and the less common atypical development or behavior was slightly underrepresented.

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

	Population (N=12,097)		Respondents (N=3,460)		Over (Under) Representation
	N	**%**	**N**	**%**	
At Least 25% Developmental Delay (DD)	**9,037**	**74.7%**	**2,485**	**68.3%**	**(6.3)**
Diagnosed Physical or Mental Condition with High Probability of Developmental Delay (DD)	2,341	19.3%	797	21.9%	2.6
Atypical Development or Behavior (AD/B)	719	5.9%	178	4.9%	(1.1)

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

2.3 JURISDICTION

While in most jurisdictions the percentage of survey respondents were representative of the number of active and eligible students, there are three counties where respondents underrepresented the sample by more than 3%: Worcester County, Montgomery County and Baltimore City. This year, Saint Mary's County's responses were overrepresented by 3 percentage points.

Exhibit 2.3: 2022-23 Survey Representativeness by Jurisdiction

Jurisdiction*	Active and Eligible Children		Survey Responses		Over or Under-Representation
	n**	% of Total	n	% of Total	% pts
Saint Mary's	183	1.7%	172	4.7%	3.1%
Harford	718	6.5%	312	8.6%	2.1%
Calvert	219	2.0%	123	3.4%	1.4%
Carroll	57	0.5%	58	1.6%	1.1%
Somerset	193	1.8%	93	2.6%	0.8%
Allegany	74	0.7%	52	1.4%	0.8%
Charles	83	0.8%	51	1.4%	0.7%
Prince George's	188	1.7%	85	2.3%	0.6%
Anne Arundel	89	0.8%	51	1.4%	0.6%
Dorchester	30	0.3%	15	0.4%	0.1%
Kent	580	5.3%	193	5.3%	0.1%
Howard	81	0.7%	26	0.7%	0.0%
Frederick	1207	11.0%	397	10.9%	0.0%
Talbot	20	0.2%	5	0.1%	0.0%
Wicomico	241	2.2%	76	2.1%	(0.1%)
Washington	91	0.8%	25	0.7%	(0.1%)
Baltimore County	289	2.6%	88	2.4%	(0.2%)
Garrett	240	2.2%	71	2.0%	(0.2%)
Caroline	157	1.4%	43	1.2%	(0.2%)
Queen Anne's	488	4.4%	152	4.2%	(0.2%)
Cecil	1674	15.2%	518	14.3%	(0.9%)
Worcester	**1733**	**15.7%**	**415**	**11.4%**	**(4.3%)**
Montgomery	**2185**	**19.8%**	**456**	**12.6%**	**(7.3%)**
Baltimore City	**1280**	**11.6%**	**116**	**3.2%**	**(8.4%)**

Note: *"Unknown" responses are not included in this chart.
Note: **Counties have been sorted in descending order based on representativeness.

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 2022-23 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 above the targets established in Maryland's SPP for this year.

Exhibit 3.1: 2022-23 Actual and Target Data for Indicator 4

	Indicator	Measurement	Actual	Target
4a	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	97.22% (=3,465/3,564)	96.0%
4b	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	96.48% (=3,424/3,549)	96.0%
4c	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	96.92% (=3,401/3,509)	96.0%

Exhibit 3.2 displays the 2022-23 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, Calvert, Caroline, Charles, Queen Anne's, Somerset, Talbot, and Worcester counties.

Exhibit 3.2: 2022-23 Estimates for Part C Indicator 4a

Jurisdiction	% Agreement	N*	Indicator 4a Std. error	Lower CI**	Upper CI**
Statewide	**97.22%**	**3,564**	**0.00**	**97.21%**	**97.23%**
Allegany	100.00%	43	0.01	99.10%	100.00%
Anne Arundel	94.59%	111	0.00	94.15%	95.04%
Baltimore City	93.33%	390	0.00	93.20%	93.46%
Baltimore County	97.32%	410	0.00	97.23%	97.40%
Calvert	100.00%	85	0.00	99.67%	100.00%
Caroline	100.00%	51	0.01	99.30%	100.00%
Carroll	99.13%	115	0.00	98.87%	99.39%
Cecil	94.67%	75	0.01	93.98%	95.35%
Charles	100.00%	88	0.00	99.68%	100.00%
Dorchester	98.08%	52	0.01	97.24%	98.91%
Frederick	99.34%	151	0.00	99.16%	99.51%
Garrett	98.28%	58	0.01	97.56%	98.99%
Harford	98.43%	191	0.00	98.27%	98.59%
Howard	98.05%	308	0.00	97.95%	98.15%
Kent	93.33%	15	0.05	88.63%	98.04%
Montgomery	95.41%	436	0.00	95.32%	95.51%
Prince George's	98.22%	506	0.00	98.17%	98.28%
Queen Anne's	100.00%	51	0.01	99.30%	100.00%
Saint Mary's	97.18%	71	0.01	96.57%	97.80%
Somerset	100.00%	5	0.16	83.96%	100.00%
Talbot	100.00%	26	0.02	98.17%	100.00%
Washington	97.83%	92	0.00	97.41%	98.25%
Wicomico	98.22%	169	0.00	98.03%	98.42%
Worcester	100.00%	24	0.02	97.95%	100.00%

*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 3.3 displays 2022-23 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, Kent, Somerset, and Worcester counties.

Exhibit 3.3: 2022-23 Estimates for Part C Indicator 4b

Jurisdiction	% Agreement	N*	Indicator 4b Std. error	Lower CI**	Upper CI**
Statewide	**96.48%**	**3,549**	**0.00**	**96.47%**	**96.49%**
Allegany	97.67%	43	0.01	96.58%	98.77%
Anne Arundel	95.41%	109	0.00	94.98%	95.84%
Baltimore City	94.13%	392	0.00	94.01%	94.25%
Baltimore County	95.34%	408	0.00	95.24%	95.45%
Calvert	97.59%	83	0.00	97.10%	98.08%
Caroline	98.04%	51	0.01	97.18%	98.90%
Carroll	99.12%	113	0.00	98.85%	99.38%
Cecil	100.00%	75	0.00	99.60%	100.00%
Charles	98.86%	88	0.00	98.48%	99.25%
Dorchester	96.08%	51	0.01	95.09%	97.06%
Frederick	95.27%	148	0.00	94.96%	95.58%
Garrett	96.55%	58	0.01	95.73%	97.37%
Harford	97.89%	190	0.00	97.72%	98.07%
Howard	99.67%	306	0.00	99.61%	99.73%
Kent	100.00%	15	0.04	96.08%	100.00%
Montgomery	96.06%	431	0.00	95.96%	96.15%
Prince George's	95.48%	509	0.00	95.40%	95.56%
Queen Anne's	98.04%	51	0.01	97.18%	98.90%
Saint Mary's	94.29%	70	0.01	93.53%	95.04%
Somerset	100.00%	5	0.16	83.96%	100.00%
Talbot	96.15%	26	0.02	93.93%	98.38%
Washington	97.78%	90	0.00	97.34%	98.21%
Wicomico	97.08%	171	0.00	96.85%	97.30%
Worcester	100.00%	25	0.02	98.06%	100.00%

*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 2022-23 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 Calvert, Charles, Frederick, Kent, Somerset, and Talbot counties.

Exhibit 3.4: 2022-23 Estimates for Part C Indicator 4c

Jurisdiction	% Agreement	N*	Indicator 4c Std. error	Lower CI**	Upper CI**
Statewide	96.92%	3,509	0.00	96.91%	96.93%
Allegany	97.67%	43	0.01	96.58%	98.77%
Anne Arundel	96.23%	106	0.00	95.81%	96.64%
Baltimore City	94.09%	389	0.00	93.96%	94.21%
Baltimore County	95.78%	403	0.00	95.68%	95.88%
Calvert	100.00%	84	0.00	99.66%	100.00%
Caroline	98.00%	50	0.01	97.12%	98.88%
Carroll	99.14%	116	0.00	98.88%	99.40%
Cecil	98.57%	70	0.01	98.03%	99.11%
Charles	100.00%	87	0.00	99.68%	100.00%
Dorchester	96.08%	51	0.01	95.09%	97.06%
Frederick	100.00%	150	0.00	99.86%	100.00%
Garrett	94.74%	57	0.01	93.80%	95.67%
Harford	98.43%	191	0.00	98.27%	98.59%
Howard	98.01%	302	0.00	97.91%	98.12%
Kent	100.00%	15	0.04	96.08%	100.00%
Montgomery	96.46%	424	0.00	96.37%	96.55%
Prince George's	97.41%	501	0.00	97.34%	97.47%
Queen Anne's	96.00%	50	0.01	94.99%	97.01%
Saint Mary's	91.43%	70	0.01	90.56%	92.29%
Somerset	100.00%	5	0.16	83.96%	100.00%
Talbot	100.00%	25	0.02	98.06%	100.00%
Washington	97.83%	92	0.00	97.41%	98.25%
Wicomico	97.55%	163	0.00	97.32%	97.77%
Worcester	96.00%	25	0.02	93.65%	98.35%

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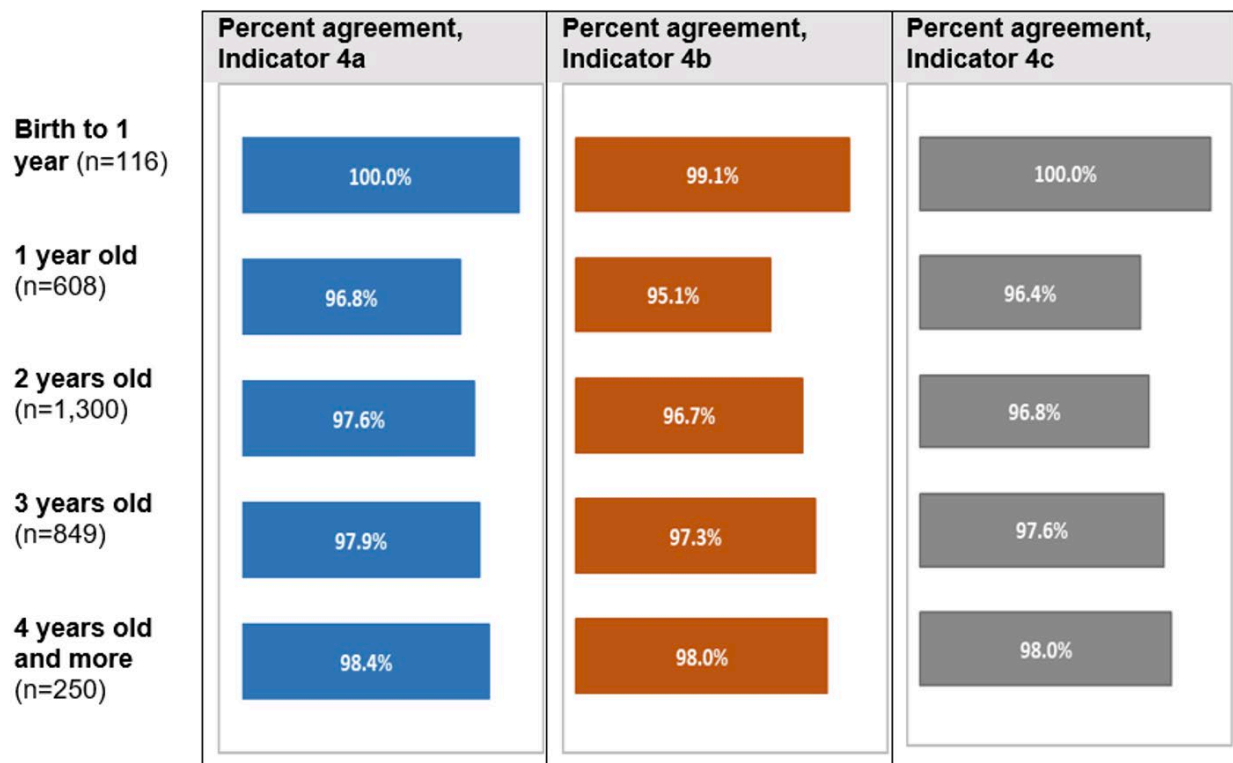****Note:** Confidence intervals are calculated at a 95% Confidence Level

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 birth to 1 year old show the highest levels of agreement across all indicators (averaging 99.7%), followed by those with children 4 or more years old (98.1%). The lowest levels of agreement tend to be with families of children aged 1 year old (averaging 96.1% percent) across all indicators.
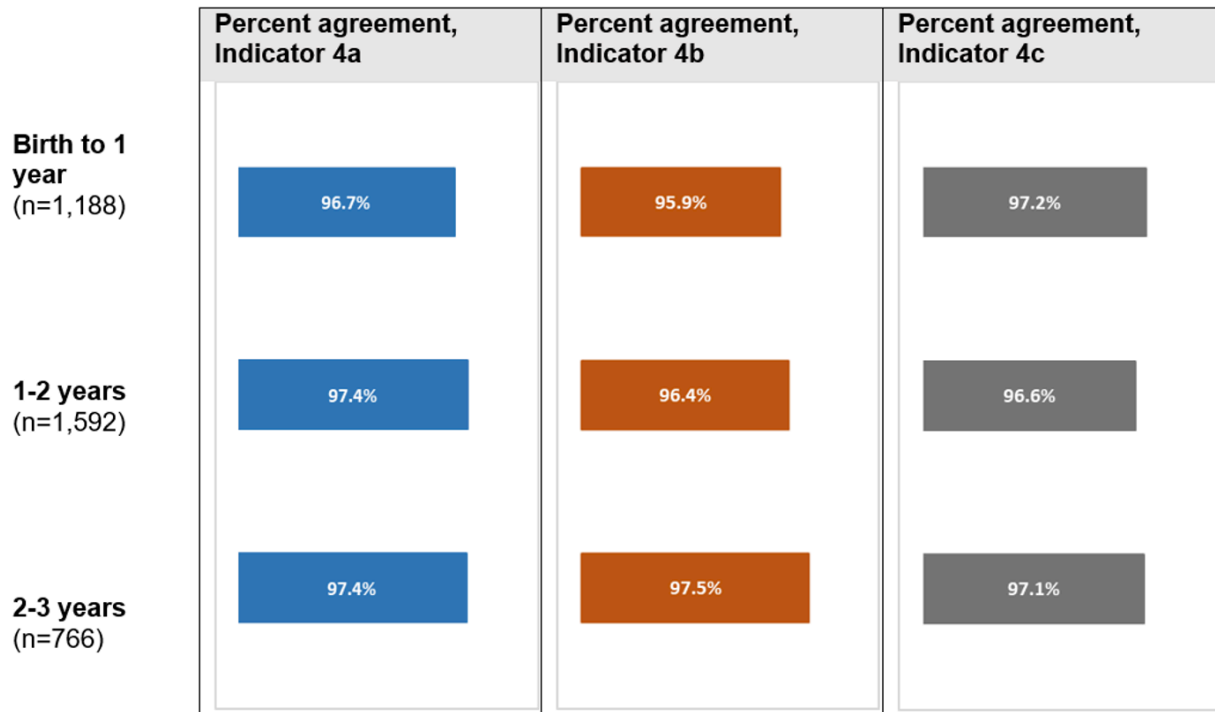
Exhibit 4.1: FFY 2022 Indicator 4 Results by Age of Child at Time of Survey Response

	Percent agreement, Indicator 4a	Percent agreement, Indicator 4b	Percent agreement, Indicator 4c
Birth to 1 year (n=116)	100.0%	99.1%	100.0%
1 year old (n=608)	96.8%	95.1%	96.4%
2 years old (n=1,300)	97.6%	96.7%	96.8%
3 years old (n=849)	97.9%	97.3%	97.6%
4 years old and more (n=250)	98.4%	98.0%	98.0%

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 agreements 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 overall for families referred to early intervention services 2-3 years of age.
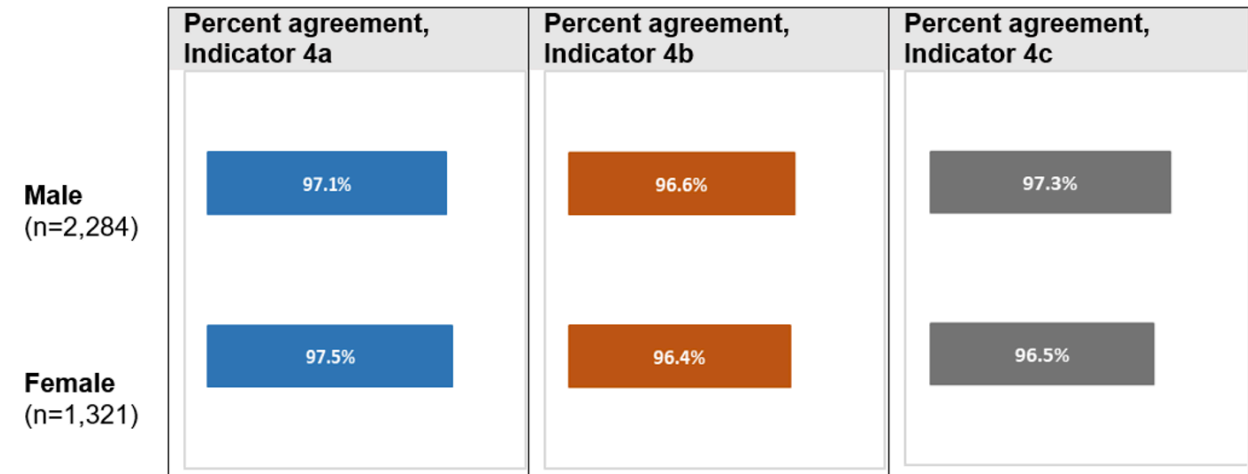
Exhibit 4.2: FFY 2022 Indicator 4 Results by Age of Child at Referral

	Percent agreement, Indicator 4a	Percent agreement, Indicator 4b	Percent agreement, Indicator 4c
Birth to 1 year (n=1,188)	96.7%	95.9%	97.2%
1-2 years (n=1,592)	97.4%	96.4%	96.6%
2-3 years (n=766)	97.4%	97.5%	97.1%

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 (0.2 percentage points) between families of male children and families of female children receiving early intervention services. The greatest difference between male and female homes was related to Indicator 4c (0.8 percentage points).
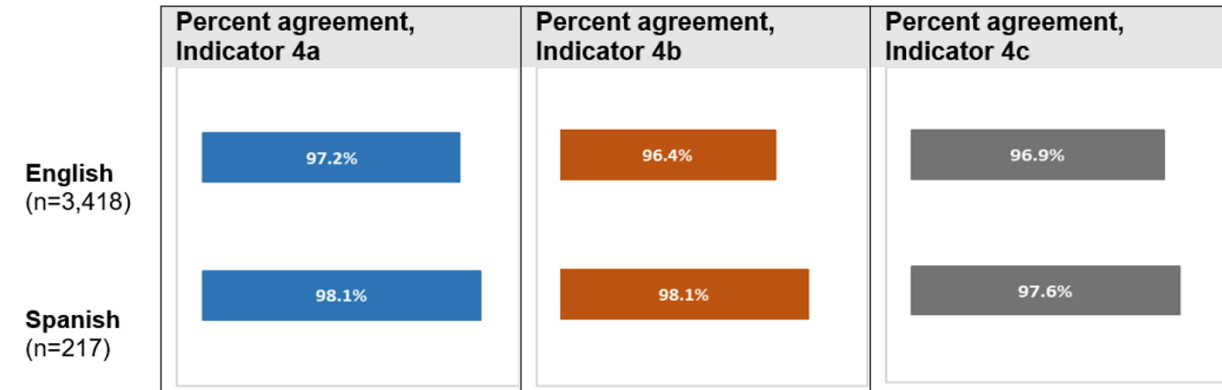
Exhibit 4.3: FFY 2022 Indicator 4 Results by Gender of Child

	Percent agreement, Indicator 4a	Percent agreement, Indicator 4b	Percent agreement, Indicator 4c
Male (n=2,284)	97.1%	96.6%	97.3%
Female (n=1,321)	97.5%	96.4%	96.5%

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: There were no discernable differences between English and Spanish homes in their agreement over all three indicators. The greatest difference between English and Spanish homes was related to Indicator 4b (1.7 percentage points).

Exhibit 4.4: FFY 2022 Indicator 4 Results by Survey Language

	Percent agreement, Indicator 4a	Percent agreement, Indicator 4b	Percent agreement, Indicator 4c
English (n=3,418)	97.2%	96.4%	96.9%
Spanish (n=217)	98.1%	98.1%	97.6%

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. Families in the program less than 1 year had the highest agreement levels across all indicators (around 99.7%). Families in the program 1-2 years of age had the lowest agreement levels across all indicators (96.1%). The greatest difference in agreement levels is 4 percentage points for Indicator 4b, with the highest agreement for families in the program less than 1 year (99.1%) and lowest agreement levels for families in the program 1-2 years (95.1%).
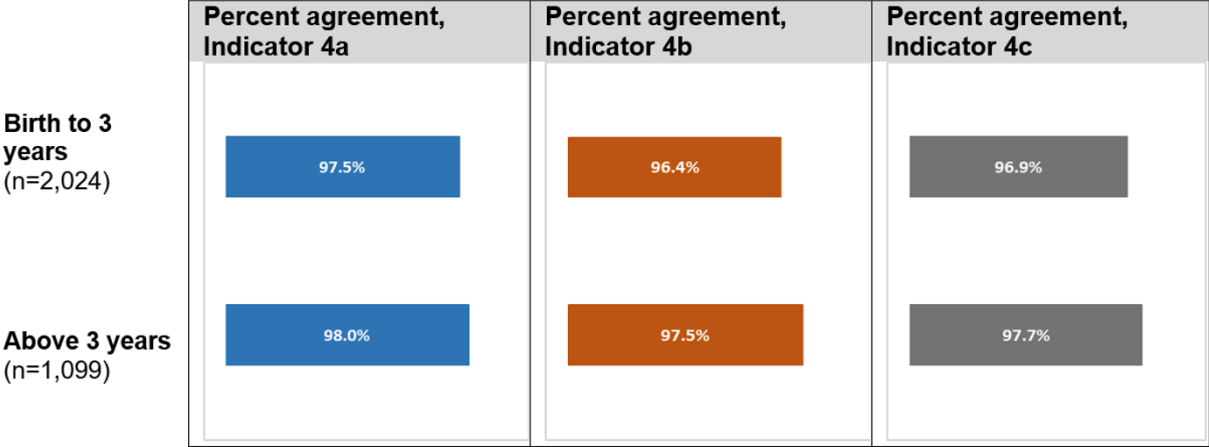
Exhibit 4.5: FFY 2022 Indicator 4 Results by Length of Time in Part C
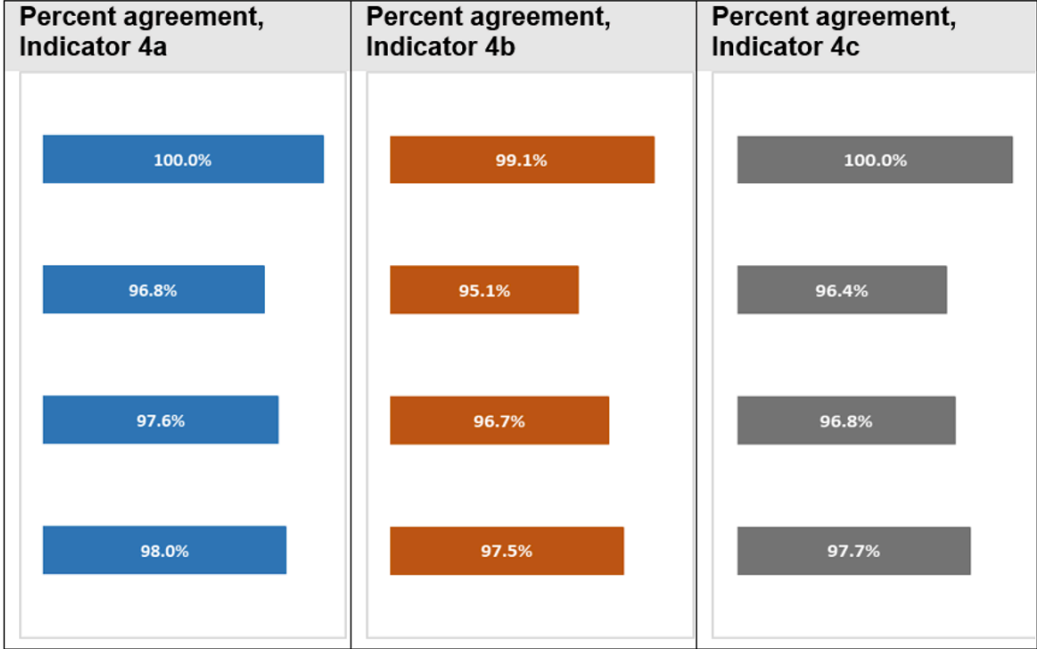
	Percent agreement, Indicator 4a	Percent agreement, Indicator 4b	Percent agreement, Indicator 4c
Less than 1 year (n=116)	100.0%	99.1%	100.0%
1-2 years (n=608)	96.8%	95.1%	96.4%
2-3 years (n=1,300)	97.6%	96.7%	96.8%
3 or more years (n=1,099)	98.0%	97.5%	97.7%

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. The only discernable differences in agreement levels (1 percentage point) were between families with children birth to 3 years and those above 3 years old for Indicator 4b.
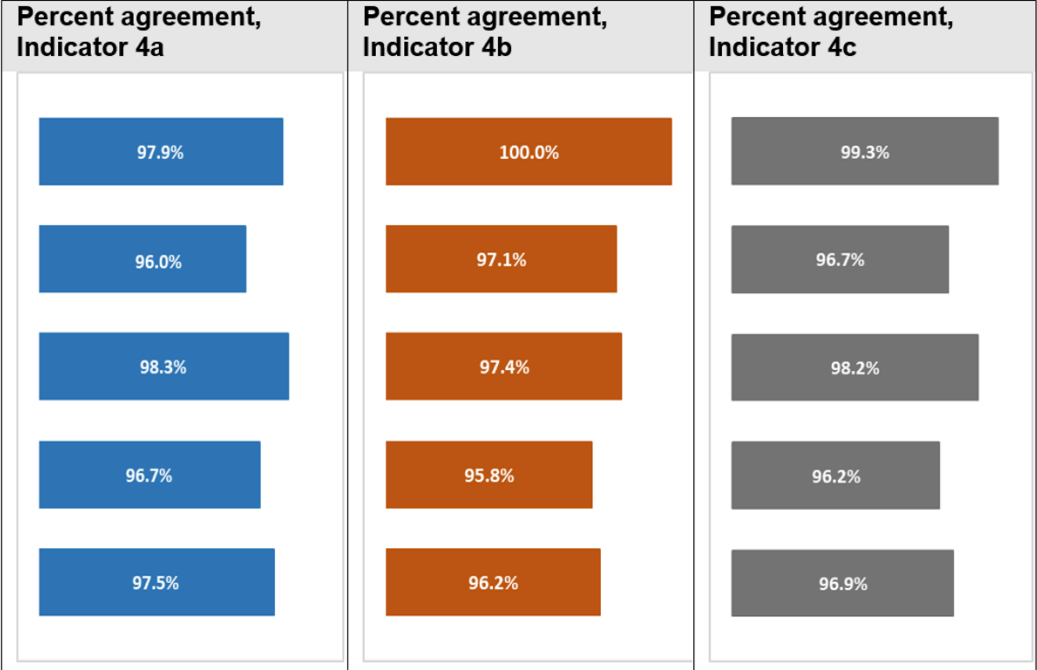
Exhibit 4.6: FFY 2022 Indicator 4 Results by Extended IFSP Option

	Percent agreement, Indicator 4a	Percent agreement, Indicator 4b	Percent agreement, Indicator 4c
Birth to 3 years (n=2,024)	97.5%	96.4%	96.9%
Above 3 years (n=1,099)	98.0%	97.5%	97.7%

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: Families of Asian descent and Hispanic or Latino families had the highest level of agreement across all three indicators (99.1% and 98.0% respectively). There were very small differences in levels of agreement (0.4 to 0.8 percentage points) for all three indicators between the two largest groups, Black and White families. Participants of Two or more races, White and Black families tended to agree across all Indicators, with less than a 1 percentage point difference.
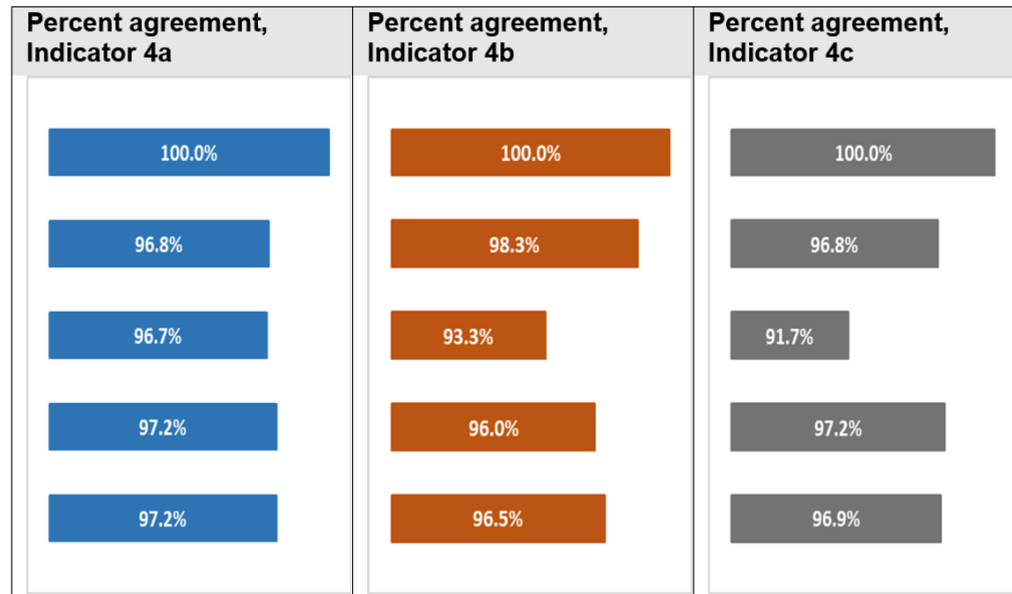
Exhibit 4.7: FFY 2022 Indicator 4 Results by Race/Ethnicity of Families Responding

	Percent agreement, Indicator 4a	Percent agreement, Indicator 4b	Percent agreement, Indicator 4c
Asian (n=147)	97.9%	100.0%	99.3%
Two or more races (n=280)	96.0%	97.1%	96.7%
Hispanic or Latino (n=588)	98.3%	97.4%	98.2%
Black or African American (n=1,044)	96.7%	95.8%	96.2%
White (n=1,534)	97.5%	96.2%	96.9%

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: There was little difference across indicators for any of the relationship options. Those that selected "Other" on the survey had the highest level of agreement across all indicators (100%), this could include guardians, aunts, uncles, etc. Foster Parents have the next highest overall agreement across all indicators (97.3%). Overall, those who specified Grandparent, had the lowest levels of agreement across all indicators (93.9%). In the largest group of respondents, Mothers, there was less than 0.7 percentage point difference in agreement across all indicators, this is followed by Fathers, with a 1.2 percentage point difference across all indicators.
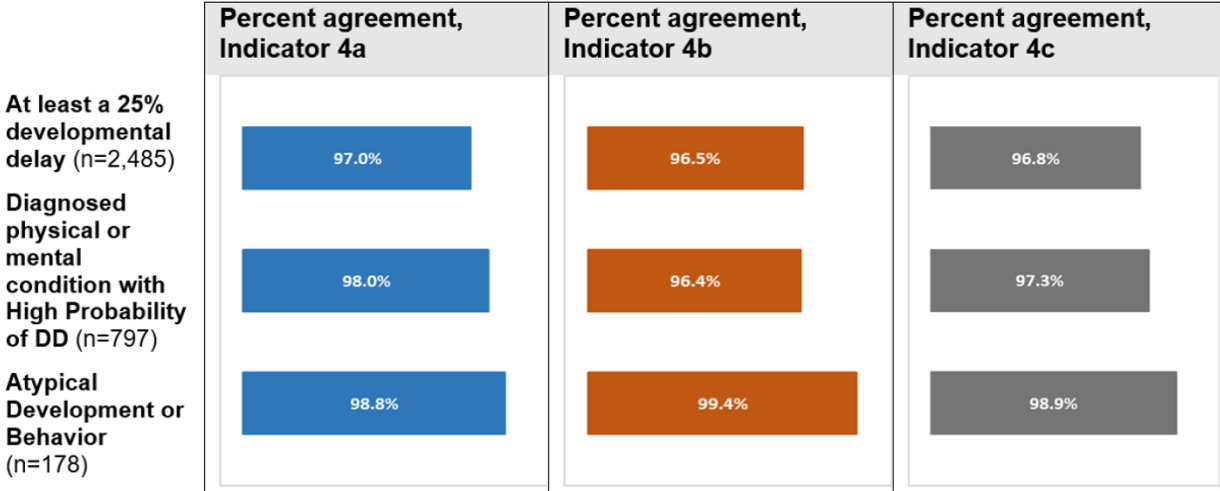
Exhibit 4.8: FFY 2022 Indicator 4 Results by Relationship of Respondent to the Child

	Percent agreement, Indicator 4a	Percent agreement, Indicator 4b	Percent agreement, Indicator 4c
Other (n=26)	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Foster parent (n=65)	96.8%	98.3%	96.8%
Grandparent (n=60)	96.7%	93.3%	91.7%
Father (n=331)	97.2%	96.0%	97.2%
Mother (n=3,114)	97.2%	96.5%	96.9%

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 Atypical Development or Behavior tended to rate Indicator 4c the highest (98.9%). Parents of students diagnosed with a physical or mental condition rated Indicators 4a the highest overall (98.0%). Parents of students with at least a 25% development disability had the lowest level of agreements for Indicators 4a and 4c. The greatest difference among eligibility determinations (3 percentage points) was between the responses for Indicator 4b.

Exhibit 4.9: FFY 2022 Indicator 4 Results by Eligibility Determination

	Percent agreement, Indicator 4a	Percent agreement, Indicator 4b	Percent agreement, Indicator 4c
At least a 25% developmental delay (n=2,485)	97.0%	96.5%	96.8%
Diagnosed physical or mental condition with High Probability of DD (n=797)	98.0%	96.4%	97.3%
Atypical Development or Behavior (n=178)	98.8%	99.4%	98.9%

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. Most parents agreed with each item on the survey, and there were 23 items where at least 95% of respondents agreed. The statement with the highest percentage of agreement (98.9%) 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 (94.4%) 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.	3,560	1.0%	0.5%	4.1%	28.6%	20.7%	45.1%	94.4%
4. know about services in the community.	3,606	0.9%	0.7%	2.8%	25.8%	22.4%	47.4%	95.6%
5. know where to go for support to meet my child's needs.	3,604	0.9%	0.5%	2.3%	24.5%	23.1%	48.6%	96.2%
6. know where to go for support to meet my family's needs.	3,575	0.8%	0.6%	3.9%	26.9%	22.5%	45.4%	94.7%
7. get the services that my child and family need.	3,594	1.0%	0.4%	2.3%	21.5%	22.3%	52.4%	96.2%
8. feel more confident in my skills as a parent.	3,609	0.9%	0.2%	1.8%	21.3%	22.9%	52.9%	97.1%
9. make changes in family routines that will benefit my child with special needs.	3,516	0.9%	0.3%	2.1%	22.8%	23.4%	50.5%	96.8%

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
10. be more effective in managing my child's behavior.	3,527	0.9%	0.3%	3.3%	27.3%	23.8%	44.4%	95.5%
11. do activities that are good for my child even in times of stress.	3,554	0.7%	0.5%	2.8%	26.7%	22.6%	46.8%	96.1%
12. feel that I can get the services and supports that my child and family need.	3,590	1.1%	0.4%	2.2%	23.8%	22.0%	50.6%	96.4%
13. understand how the early intervention system works.	3,612	0.8%	0.4%	1.7%	23.4%	21.9%	51.7%	97.0%
14. be able to evaluate how much progress my child is making.	3,607	0.9%	0.2%	1.5%	20.8%	22.5%	54.1%	97.4%
15. feel that my child will be accepted and welcomed in the community.	3,540	0.8%	0.2%	1.5%	24.6%	20.8%	52.1%	97.5%
16. feel that my family will be accepted and welcomed in the community.	3,530	0.8%	0.2%	1.8%	24.8%	21.5%	50.9%	97.2%
17. communicate more effectively with the people who work with my child and family. (4b)	**3,549**	**0.9%**	**0.2%**	**2.5%**	**24.0%**	**21.3%**	**51.2%**	96.5%
18. understand the roles of the people who work with my child and family.	3,551	0.9%	0.2%	2.0%	23.4%	21.7%	51.8%	96.8%
19. know about my child's and family's rights concerning early intervention services. (4a)	**3,564**	**0.8%**	**0.5%**	**1.5%**	**24.0%**	**21.5%**	**51.7%**	97.2%
20. do things with and for my child that are good for my child's development.	3,607	0.8%	0.2%	0.7%	19.2%	20.5%	58.6%	98.3%

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
21. understand my child's special needs. (4c)	**3,509**	**0.9%**	**0.3%**	**1.9%**	**22.2%**	**21.7%**	**53.0%**	96.9%
22. feel that my efforts are helping my child.	3,599	0.8%	0.3%	0.8%	20.3%	20.8%	57.1%	98.2%
23. figure out solutions to problems as they come up.	3,567	0.9%	0.3%	1.3%	23.3%	21.8%	52.4%	97.5%
24. feel that I can handle the challenges of parenting a child with special needs.	3,475	0.9%	0.2%	2.1%	24.1%	22.6%	49.6%	96.2%
Parents completed the following questions if their child turned 3 years old before July 1, 2021 and their family continued to receive early intervention services through an Extended Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP).								
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*	1,212	1.0%	0.2%	1.7%	21.2%	17.7%	58.1%	97.0%
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) *	1,181	1.4%	0.3%	3.7%	22.4%	19.5%	52.7%	94.5%

Note: State-provided demographic data were used to exclude inappropriate respondents (families whose child was not age three by the July 1st, 2022, 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 2022.

RESPONSE RATE AND SAMPLE FRAME

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 FFY 2016-2018, the average number of surveys distributed again increased to 10,703. In FFY 2019, there was a slight dip to 9,769 and in FFY 2020 sample size increased to 10,881. COVID protocols in 2019 may have influenced parents to make different educational decisions for their child(ren), but we see this reverting to previous levels in FFY 2020. For FFY 2022 the sample size exceeded the 2018 levels with 12,100.

From 2005-08, the average response rate was 23.6%. In the following four years, 2009-12, the response rate grew to 45.0%. From 2013 to the present, the average response rate increased more gradually (and at times dipped) –with a high level of 46.0% in 2016-17. The 2019-20 response rate of 17.3% (a sharp decrease of 22.8 percentage points from the previous year) was most likely due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the difference in the process for distribution and collection of surveys and how counties have had to adjust when offering services. The 2020-21 year there was a 2.4 percentage point increase, which is most likely due to relaxing COVID restrictions and parents receiving more services similar to the past. In the current 2022-23 year we saw a slight decrease of 2.8 percentage points from last year.

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%

Federal Fiscal Year	Surveys Sent	Surveys Completed	Adjusted Response Rate*
2018	11,029	4,339	40.1%
2019	9,769	1,650	17.3%
2020	10,881	2,118	19.7%
2021	11,021	3,632	33.3%
2022	12,100	3,636	30.5%

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

OSEP INDICATOR 4 GRAPHS

The figures below show the target and actual percentage agreement with Indicators 4a, 4b, and 4c. From 2010-22, the actual percentage agreement for all three indicators have remained above the annual targets established in Maryland's SPP, which have increased over time. For Indicator 4a the value of the indicator is 1.2 percentage points above the state target in 2022-23, for Indicator 4b it is 0.5 percentage points above this year's state target, while for 4c, the actual percentage agreement value is 0.9 percentage points higher than the current target.

Exhibit 6.2: Indicator 4 Agreement Levels vs. State Targets, 2010 to 2022