

Breaking Ground for Success

- ACCESS TO EARLY HEAD START

The groundwork for a child's healthy development is laid during the brain's rapid growth throughout pregnancy. To ensure babies are healthy, we have to support mothers with timely and frequent, high-quality prenatal care. In Ohio, many babies are born prematurely and too many do not make it to their first birthday. Poverty disproportionately impacts young children and families of color, making it even more difficult to overcome adversity and maintain healthy development. Empowering parents and caregivers to support their baby's development through health and educational interventions allows Ohio to ensure that babies are positioned to thrive during their first year and beyond. Ohio must do a better job of reaching our most at-risk babies and families early.



Access to Early Head Start

Early Head Start (EHS) programs provide intensive, comprehensive child development and family support services to low-income infants and toddlers under the age of 3 and pregnant women.

EHS is designed to nurture healthy attachments between parent and child (or child and caregiver). Services encompass the full range of a family's needs from pregnancy through a child's third birthday. These services are designed to promote the development of children and to enable their parents to fulfill their roles as caregivers and teachers and to move toward self-sufficiency.

EHS programs promote the physical, cognitive, social, and emotional development of infants and toddlers through safe and developmentally enriching care. This prepares children for continued growth and development and lifelong success. Programs also assist families in meeting their own personal goals and achieving self-sufficiency across a wide variety of domains, such as housing stability, continued education, and financial security.

EHS programs provide options for home-based, center-based and family child care services. Home-based services are provided through weekly home visits to children and families in addition to bimonthly opportunities for group learning among parents and children. Education and child development services are delivered through center-based classroom settings located at an EHS center, school, child care center, or family child care setting.

Eligibility for EHS requires the family to be at or below 100% of the federal poverty level, however, EHS programs are allowed to serve a small percentage of children from families between 100% and 130% of FPL as well others who demonstrate need in other ways.



To measure access, the next page shows a comparison between eligible 0-2 year olds at or below 130% FPL compared to eligible 0-2 years enrolled in Early Head Start.

Access to Early Head Start

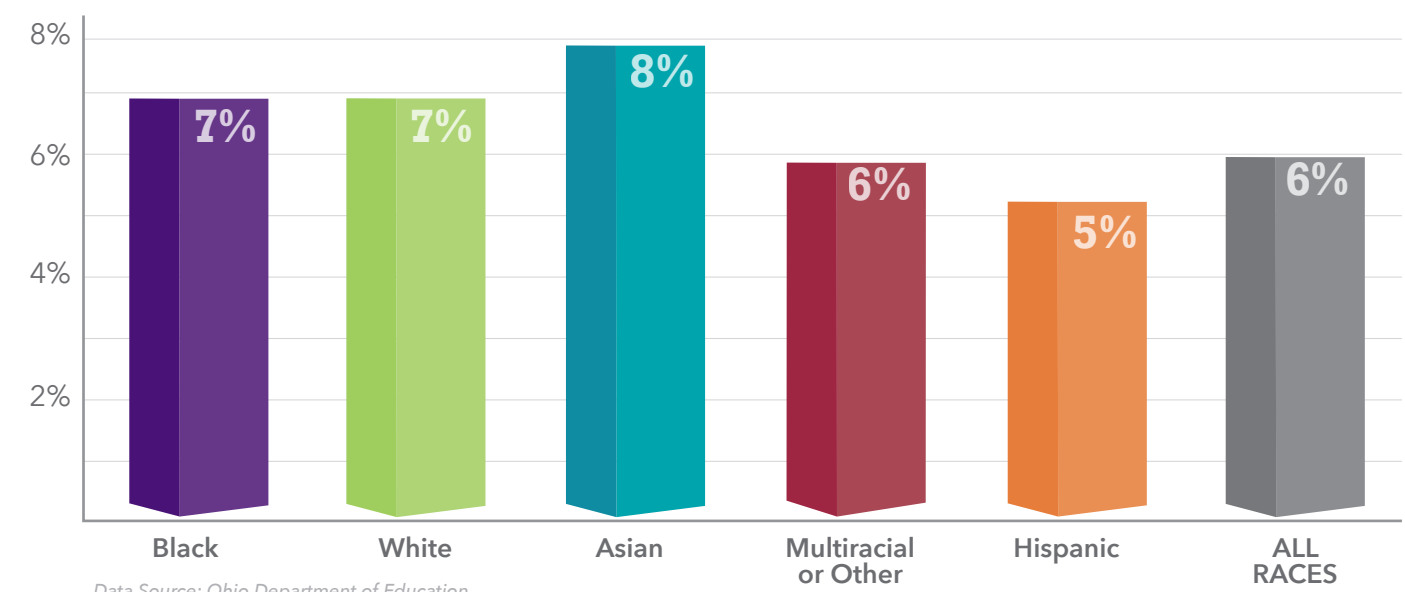
FY17 Statewide Early Head Start Children Served by Race & Ethnicity

Table 1

Race & Ethnicity	# of Early Head Start Children (0-2)	Est. # of Eligible Children (0-2) at/below 130% FPL	% of Eligible Early Head Start Children (0-2) Being Served
Black	2,780	42,725	6.5%
White	4,476	68,822	6.5%
Asian	85	1,136	7.5%
Multiracial/Other	966	17,278	5.6%
Hispanic	663	12,934	5.1%
ALL CHILDREN	8,970	142,895	6.3%

FY17 Statewide Percentage of ELIGIBLE 0-2 YEAR OLDS Served in Early Head Start by Race & Ethnicity

Chart 1



Data Source: Ohio Department of Education

Access to Early Head Start:

SOURCES

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/programs/article/early-head-start-programs>

DATA SOURCE

Ohio Department of Education



Join Us.

Groundwork
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Ohio Early Childhood Race & Rural Equity Report

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