

INDICATOR 8: EARLY CHILDHOOD TRANSITION

NECTAC REVIEW OF PART C INDICATOR #8

Indicator #8: Percent of all children exiting Part C who received timely transition planning to support the child’s transition to preschool and other appropriate community services by their third birthday including: (A) IFSPs with transition steps and services (B) Notification to LEA, if child potentially eligible for Part B; and (C) Transition conference, if child potentially eligible for Part B.

Introduction

Indicator #8 is considered a compliance indicator with a performance target of 100%. Each of the three subsections of Indicator #8 relate to specific Part C regulations. For (A) *IFSPs with transition steps and services*, Part C regulations specify that, “The IFSP must include the steps to be taken to support the transition of the child, in accordance with 303.148” [303.344(h)]. For (B) *Notification to LEA, if child potentially eligible for Part B*, Part C regulations specify that the Lead Agency will “Notify the local education agency for the area in which the child resides that the child will shortly reach the age of eligibility for preschool services under Part B” [303.148(b)(1)]. For (C) *Transition conference, if child potentially eligible for Part B*, Part C regulations specify that “In the case of child who may be eligible for preschool services under Part B of the Act, with the approval of the family of the child, [the lead agency will] convene a conference among the lead agency, the family, and the local educational agency” [303.148(b)(2)(i)]. States were asked to show baseline performance for all three subsections of Indicator #8. This review and analysis of Part C indicator #8 is based on a review of reported State Performance Plans for 56 states and jurisdictions.

BASELINE PERFORMANCE

The distribution of the baseline performance across the states/jurisdictions for each of the three subsections of Indicator #8 is displayed in Tables 1, 2, and 3.

Table 1. Distribution of States’ Baseline Performance for Subsection A

Percent of children with IFSPs having transition steps and services	Number of States in each percentile distribution
100%	11
95% to 99%	9
90% to 94%	3
80% to 89%	7

70% to 79%	9
60% to 69%	5
50% to 59%	4
<49%	4
Not responsive to indicator	2
Baseline data not provided	2

Eleven states indicated that their baseline performance for subsection A was in full compliance. Another 12 states indicated a baseline performance of 90% or more. Twenty-nine states had baseline performance levels below 90% with 4 of those states being below 50%. Two states did not provide baseline performance data that was responsive to subsection A. In both cases the state reported regional performance percents, but did not provide a statewide baseline percent. Two states could not provide baseline performance data for subsection A because their state's data system and/or monitoring procedures did not capture such data regarding transition.

Baseline Performance Data Sources

Data sources used by states to determine their baseline performance for Subsection A included:

- Data collected while monitoring the state's regional/local programs (37 states)
- Data collected through the state's Part C data system (7 states)
- Data collected through local/regional self-assessments (4 states)
- Data source was not provided (4 states)

Table 2. Distribution of States' Baseline Performance for Subsection B

Percent of children potentially eligible for Part B for whom LEA notification has occurred	Number of States in each percentile distribution
100%	16
95% to 99%	7
90% to 94%	8
80% to 89%	5
70% to 79%	3
60% to 69%	1
50% to 59%	1
40% to 49%	4
30% to 39%	3
12% to 14%	2
Not responsive to indicator	2
Baseline data not provided	4

Sixteen states indicated that their baseline performance for subsection B was in full compliance. Another 15 states indicated a baseline performance of 90% or more. Nineteen states had baseline performance levels below 90% with 9 of those states being below 50%. Two states did not provide baseline performance data that was responsive to subsection B. In both cases the state reported regional performance percents, but did not provide a statewide baseline percent. Four states could not provide baseline performance data for subsection B because their state’s data system and/or monitoring procedures did not capture such data regarding transition.

Baseline Performance Data Sources

Data sources used by states to determine their baseline performance for subsection B included:

- Data collected while monitoring the state’s regional/local programs (32 states)
- Data collected through the state’s Part C data system (10 states)
- Data collected through local/regional self-assessments (2 states)
- Data source was not provided (8 states)

Table 3. Distribution of States’ Baseline Performance for Subsection C

Percent of children potentially eligible for Part B for whom a transition conference has occurred	Number of States in each percentile distribution
100%	4
95% to 99%	4
90% to 94%	7
80% to 89%	11
70% to 79%	6
60% to 69%	6
50% to 59%	3
40% to 49%	6
30% to 39%	2
5% to 25%	2
Not responsive to indicator	2
Baseline data not provided	3

Four states indicated that their baseline performance for subsection C was in full compliance. Another 11 states indicated a baseline performance of 90% or more. Thirty-six states had baseline performance levels below 90% with 10 of those states being below 50%. Two states did not provide baseline performance data that was responsive to subsection C. In both cases the state reported regional performance percents, but did not provide a statewide baseline percent. Three states could not provide baseline performance data for subsection C

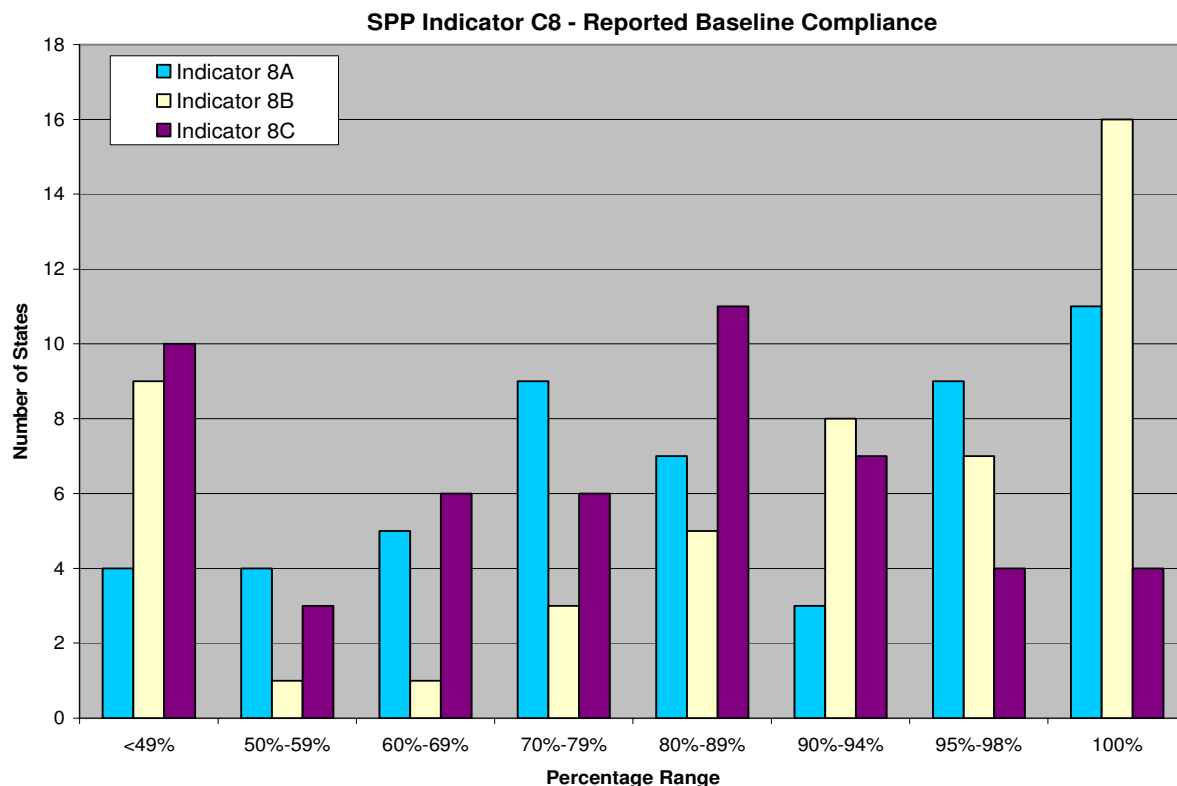
because their state's data system and/or monitoring procedures did not capture such data regarding transition.

Baseline Performance Data Sources

Data sources used by states to determine their baseline performance for subsection C included:

- Data collected while monitoring the state's regional/local programs (29 states)
- Data collected through the state's Part C data system (10 states)
- Data collected through local/regional self-assessments (4 states)
- Data collected through family surveys (3 states)
- Data source was not provided (8 states)

The majority of states used monitoring data to establish their baseline for all three subsections of Indicator #8. Of those that did, most used a random sample of record reviews with some states being on a multi-year monitoring cycle. States rarely reported how representative their samples were of the state's Part C population.



The graph above displays the baseline performance of states for all three subsections of indicator #8. It shows that, while states have a wide range of performance on all three subsections, states are doing much better at informing LEAs (subsection B) of potentially eligible children than in holding transition conferences (subsection C).

PERFORMANCE TARGETS

Since Indicator #8 is considered a compliance indicator rigorous and measurable performance targets for all six years of the SPP are 100%.

Improvement Activities, Timelines, Resources

States improvement activities, timelines and resources for Indicator #8 were reviewed in order to determine:

- What types of improvement activities are being used by states?
- What amount of specificity did states provide in their six-year improvement plan?
- What assertions of effectiveness, if any, did states provide?

Types of Improvement Activities

The table below shows the types of improvement activities states plan to use to address Indicator #8 and the number of states employing each activity.

Table 4. Types of Improvement Activities To Be Used By States

Types of Improvement Activities	Number of States
Improve monitoring	48
Provide Training	46
Improve data collection	38
Clarify policies and procedures	37
Provide technical assistance	31
Collaborate with Part B, both state and/or local	28
Provide guidance to families	16

States intend to improve monitoring by revising tools and procedures to capture the performance status on the three specific subsections of indicator #8, by monitoring the effectiveness of local/regional improvement strategies, and by posting the rate of compliance for programs/regions on the state Web site. Some plan to survey families regarding their satisfaction with the transition process. Training and technical assistance regarding transition is typically targeted for service coordinators, providers, parents, and local interagency groups. Trainings sometimes are based on successful local transition models (e.g., having a transition contact for both C & B in a given locality). Plans for improving data collection included revising the state data system to capture required data elements, verify data as a part of monitoring, instituting a computer generated notification report system that flags when children are approaching required timelines and notifies service coordinators, and sharing data with school districts. Efforts to clarify policies and procedures include: posting procedures and policies on the state Web pages, revising the IFSP form to include transition steps/plan, creating forms to be included in the child's record that document that transition steps were carried out, instituting the use of transition notification forms for school districts, and clarifying that transition planning applies to all children (not just those potentially eligible for B). Collaboration with Part B includes such things as developing or updating memorandums of understanding, identifying common data needs, sharing child records, and conducting joint trainings. Providing guidance to families usually involved developing and disseminating booklet/brochures (including materials in other languages) and some parent orientation and training.

Level of Specificity

After reviewing the improvement activities, timelines and resources section of a state's response to Indicator #8, the state's improvement activities were assigned a specificity rating of high, moderate, or low. A plan that was rated high was characterized by improvement activities that reflected multiple approaches to achieving improvement that included most (if not all) of the types of improvement activities identified above. Improvement activities were usually delineated as a sequence of specific steps with accompanying timelines and resources, usually organized by year. Proposed activities were explained in some detail. A plan that

was rated moderate contained a lesser number of activities and without as much detail, but did include timelines and resources. Sequencing of the activities across the six years was not as well specified. A plan that was rated low contained only a few activities; descriptions of proposed activities were vague and lacking in detail; timelines and resources were not provided; and the plan typically did not cover all six years. The table below displays the results of the assignment of ratings.

Table 5. Level of Specificity in SPP Improvement Activities

Level of Specificity	Number of states
High	5
Moderate	27
Low	23

Assertions of Effectiveness

The review of Indicator #8 found no instances of a state making an assertion that a proposed improvement activity was selected because of demonstrated effectiveness.