

Well-Being and Young Children in Foster Care

February 18, 2021

Young children in Foster Care

- 6,009 infants through 5 year-olds in foster care in 2019
 - Children of color over-represented
 - Infants and toddlers most likely age group to be removed from their homes and placed in out-of-home care
- These experiences can be traumatic
 - Research shows higher rates of developmental delay for children who have been reported to child protection
 - Cognitive development, social emotional health and physical health may be negatively affected
- Early childhood programs can be effective in getting high-risk children back on a healthy developmental track
 - Especially family focused intensive services like Early Childhood Special Education and Head Start

Current Status

- Information is not regularly gathered from counties or school districts, or reported at the state level, about foster children's participation in early childhood programs
- information that is available indicates generally low rates of participation
- Tracking rates can lead to improvement
- Improvements in the state's data capacity should make gathering and tracking this information easier
 - Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System

HF 910
(Kotzya-
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SF XXX
(Coleman)

- Requires DHS to report on the the current rates of participation in early childhood education and care programs by young children in foster care using administrative data, and to develop a plan to increase their participation:
 - Number and rate of participation by program, race, ethnicity, age and county,
 - Identification of additional resources necessary to report this information,
 - Plan to increase participation must be developed in collaboration with affected families and communities, counties, schools, providers and others.
- Interim progress report due January 15, 2022.
- Final report with plan due June 30, 2022.

Supporting groups (to date)

- Elders for Infants
- Ombudsman for African American Families
- Minnesota Head Start Association
- St Paul Public Schools Early Childhood Special Education
- Think Small
- Children's Defense Fund MN

Other resources today

- Kraig Radtke
 - Executive director Minnesota Head Start Association
- Brenda Natala
 - Early Education Special Education Supervisor, St Paul Public School
- Additional background
 - <https://acfmain-stage.acf.hhs.gov/opre/report/child-well-being-spotlight-children-living-kinship-care-and-nonrelative-foster-care-are>
 - <https://www.casey.org/early-childhood-education-research/>
 - <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/im/acf-im-hs-10-04>
 - <https://www.rti.org/impact/national-survey-child-and-adolescent-well-being-nscaw>
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