

## Head Start Program Information Report

All Head Start agencies (see box to the right) are required to submit an annual Program Information Report (PIR), which includes data collected on each child, pregnant woman and family at the time of enrollment. The PIR's are collected by the national U.S. Office of Head Start ([OHS](#)), who analyze the data for inclusion in the biennial [Reports to Congress](#). In addition to enrollment data (including child and family demographics), staff information (including staff demographics), and other administrative recordkeeping, the PIR includes 59 data categories used to describe the health, wellbeing and health service utilization of program participants and their families. Categories include insurance status, access to health care and medical homes, developmental screening, immunizations, chronic conditions, and family characteristics such as parental employment, education, father involvement, and homelessness among others. Data collection tools can be found in the [2020-2021 PIR](#).

In 2015, OHS released the [Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework: Ages Birth to Five](#), designed to guide curriculum development and appropriate assessments of children. The framework was not designed to be an assessment tool, but OHS encourages Head Start agencies to voluntarily develop their own assessments aligned to this framework.

### Head Start and Early Head Start

Established in 1965, Head Start and Early Head Start agencies promote school readiness for low-income children from birth-age 5, pregnant women and their families through the provision of education, nutritional, health, social and other services. Head Start agencies exist in all U.S. states, territories, and over 155 tribal communities. Over 1 million people were served through Head Start and Early Head Start programs between 2017 and 2018. Individual agencies offer Head Start services through a variety of service models customized to local needs. Head Start agencies are funded by the national Office of Head Start (OHS), part of the Administration for Children & Families (ACF), Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC).

OHS encourages Head Start agencies to voluntarily develop their own assessments aligned to this framework.

### Head Start Program Information Report Measures

<b>Developers</b>	U.S. Office of Head Start (OHS).
<b>Funders</b>	U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF)
<b>Purposes</b>	The PIR annually summarizes descriptive characteristics of Head Start and Early Head Start agencies. This includes information about the curriculums used, assessment instruments, staff qualification, and child and family characteristics including health information.
<b>Target Populations</b>	Children, pregnant women and families served by Head Start programs.
<b>Data Sources</b>	Data collected from families enrolled in a Head Start agency by program administrators upon enrollment.
<b>Technical Measure Descriptions</b>	Data collection and reporting tools can be found in the <a href="#">2020-2021 Head Start Program Information Report</a> .
<b>Number of Measures</b>	59 data collection categories relevant to health and wellbeing of the child and family.
<b>Topics of Measurement</b>	Insurance status, access to health care, developmental screening, immunizations, family characteristics such as homelessness, parent education, father involvement, among others.
<b>Reporting Requirements</b>	Agencies are required to electronically submit data for the Program Information Report (PIR) on an annual basis. Reporting Requirements for the PIR can be found <a href="#">here</a> .
<b>Recommended or Required Stratification</b>	Program administrators are required to collect demographic and other descriptive information about program participants, therefore it is possible for the health-related data to be stratified by an assortment of variables. However, the biennial <a href="#">Reports to Congress</a> have historically only utilized demographic data for the purpose of presenting enrollment statistics.
<b>Link to Additional Info</b>	Head Start <a href="#">data and reports</a>   <a href="#">Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework</a>

\*As the data collected through the Head Start Program Information Report does not include specific and clear measure numerators, denominators and data sources, Head Start measures are unable to be included to the MCH Measures Compendium.

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