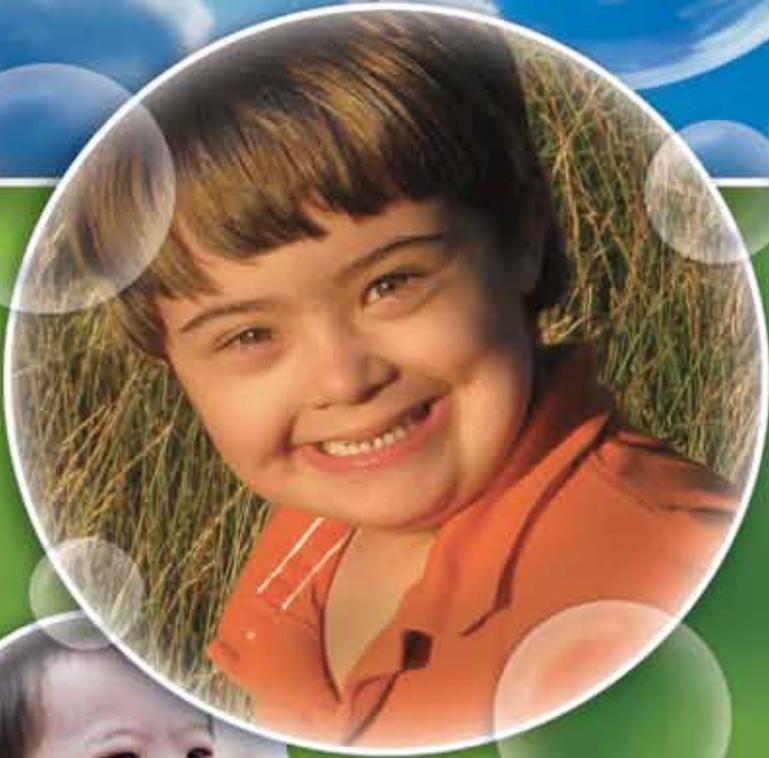


2009-2010



Pennsylvania State Interagency Coordinating Council

Early Intervention in Pennsylvania

Annual Report Submitted to the Governor

Dear Governor Rendell,

My daughter Chloe, who has Down syndrome, was born in 2003, the year you were sworn in as Governor of Pennsylvania. My family faced many fears and uncertainties as we looked to Chloe's future. Investing in Early Intervention and Early Childhood Education was a top priority for you as Governor, and your leadership has transformed Pennsylvania into a national and international Early Childhood model of excellence. As a retired police officer, I like facts, and here are some pretty awesome ones:

- In 2002, Pennsylvania served 50,600 children birth to five. Forty-nine percent of the preschool age children were served in inclusive settings.
- In 2010, Pennsylvania served over 80,000 children birth to five. Sixty-nine percent of the preschool age children were served in inclusive settings – *priceless!*

Your unwavering commitment and support for these proven programs led to the creation of the Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL), blessed with the outstanding leadership of Secretary Harriet Dichter. Now, children across the commonwealth are receiving a solid early foundation, which will lead to a lifetime of success.

The task of the PA State Interagency Coordinating Council (State ICC) is to advise and support state agencies by making recommendations to the Departments of Education, Health, and Public Welfare. As an advisory board, the State ICC ensures that the Pennsylvania Early Intervention system delivers supports and services to children in the most effective and family-friendly manner. The State ICC has taken on the task of making sure legislators and policymakers understand that investment in Early Intervention/Early Childhood Education is critical, and these programs are now receiving deserved recognition and attention.

As you complete your term as Pennsylvania Governor, my 7-year-old daughter, Chloe, is currently attending 2nd grade in her neighborhood school, and our family now has great optimism and excitement for her future. For the countless children and families across Pennsylvania, and the tremendous professionals who deliver these services, I would like to say "Thank You" and reinforce that you have left behind deep roots, which will yield a positive, beautiful harvest for many generations to come.

Sincerely,

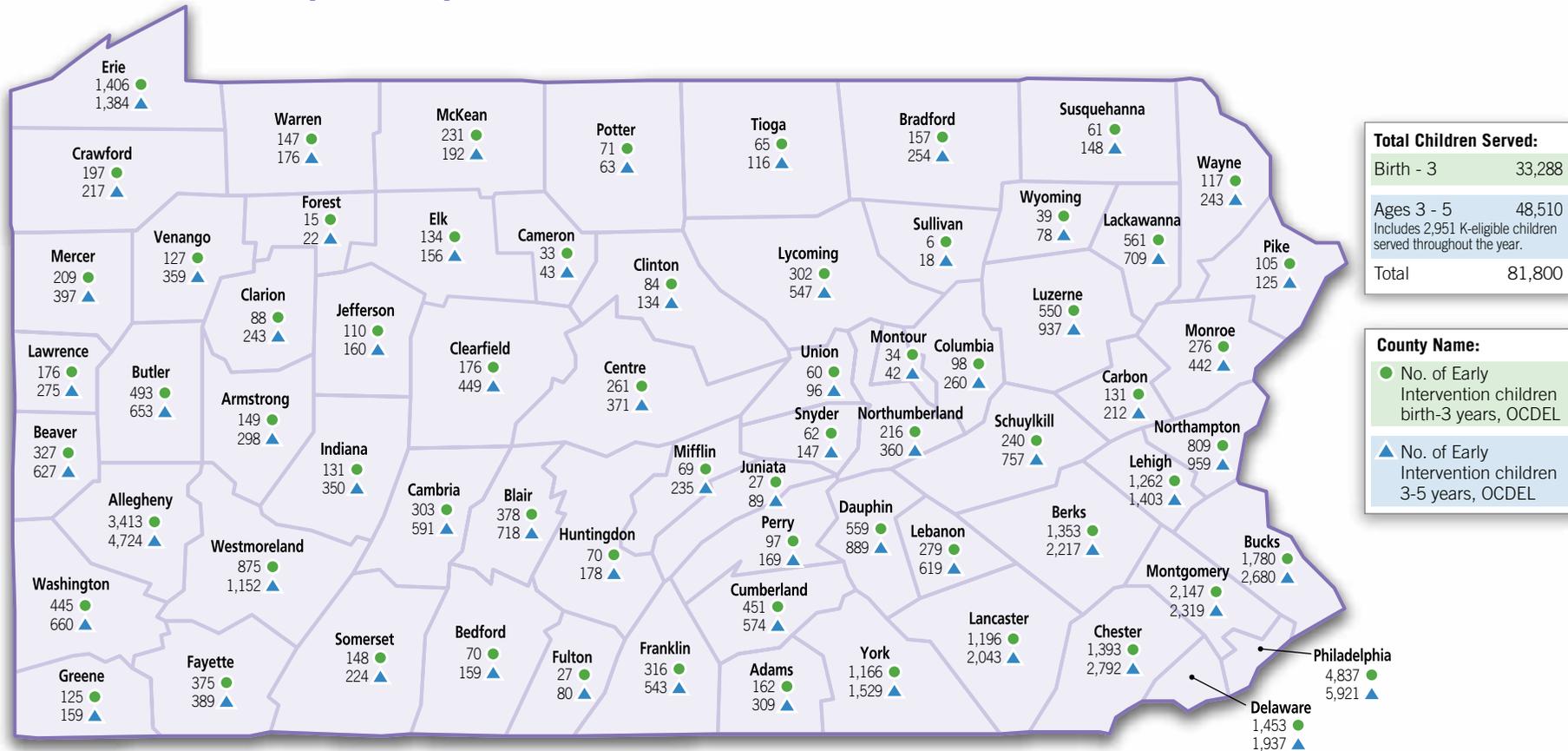
Kurt A. Kondrich, M.Ed.

Parent and State ICC Chair, 2009-2010

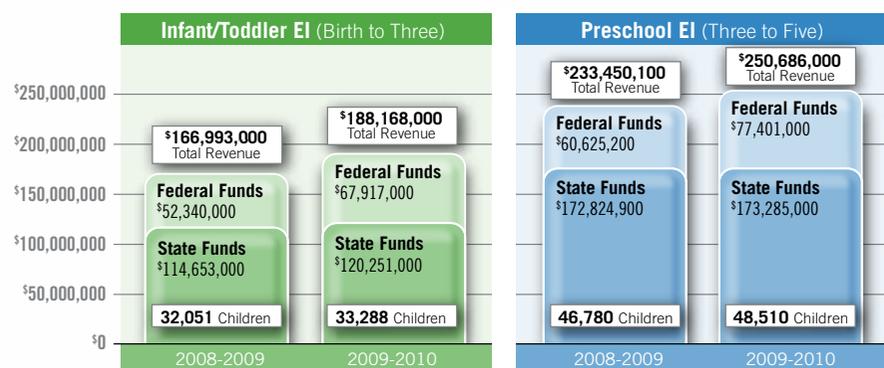
Approximately **94 percent** of parents whose infants or toddlers received EI services **agreed that those services helped them communicate more effectively** with the people who work with their child and family. [2010 Annual Family Survey]



Children Served by County



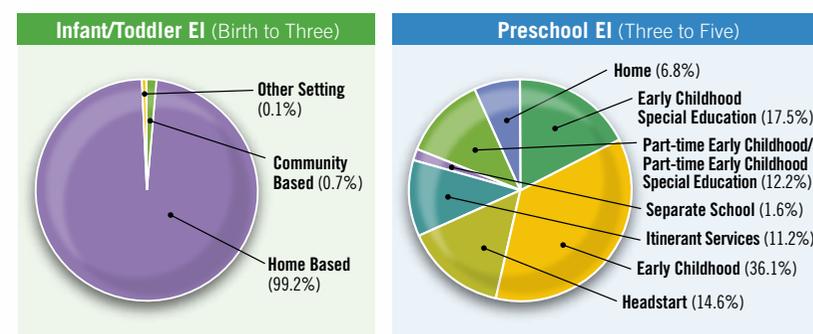
Funding for Services



Notes:

1. State funds for 0-3 include funding for services and service coordination. State funds for 0-3 do not include the 10% match.
2. Federal funds include IDEA and Medical Assistance funds.
3. The number of Infant/Toddlers served in 2008-09 is an actual total and replaces the projection (34,281) reported in the 2008-09 SICC Annual Report.

Location Where Services are Provided



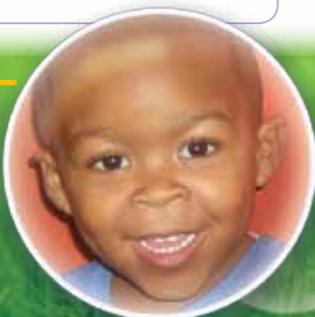
Note:

Over 50 percent of home-based services for children birth to age three are provided in other community settings, such as playgrounds and recreation sites.

Note:

Almost 70 percent of preschool children receive their services in inclusive settings.

Over **85 percent** of parents whose children received EI services **agreed that they have a better understanding of their child's and family's rights** concerning EI services (e.g., filing a complaint, requesting mediation, due process).
[2010 Annual Family Survey]



Approximately **89 percent** of parents whose preschooler received EI services **agreed that those services helped them understand their child's special needs.**
[2010 Annual Family Survey]



Early Intervention Services and Supports in Pennsylvania

Early Intervention in Pennsylvania consists of services and supports designed to help families with children who have developmental delays. Early Intervention builds upon the natural learning occurring in those first few years. It is a process that promotes collaboration among parents, service providers, and others significantly involved with the child.

Early Intervention:

- Answers families' questions about their child's development;
- Enhances each family's capacity to meet the developmental needs of their child in the settings where children would be if they did not have a disability;
- Respects the family's strengths, values, diversity and competencies;
- Supports communities to become more aware of the gifts and abilities of all its children;
- Helps prevent the need for more and costly intervention in the future;
- Develops Early Intervention practitioners' skills to work collaboratively with families, caregivers, and educators to help children grow and learn.

Newborn Hearing Screening Program

Pennsylvania's Infant Hearing Education, Assessment, Reporting and Referral (IHEARR) Act (Act 89 of 2001) empowers the Department of Health to administer a statewide, comprehensive, newborn hearing screening and follow-up program. This program provides for the screening and linking of infants identified with hearing loss to appropriate services within six months of birth. During calendar year 2009, 98 percent of reported hospital births were screened. Of those screened, 5.2 percent needed rescreening. Rescreening was completed for 89 percent of those infants who needed it. One hundred ninety-nine (199) infants were diagnosed with a permanent hearing loss, and at the time of this writing, 146 of those infants have been linked to Early Intervention services. In addition to the infants diagnosed with permanent hearing loss, 190 infants were diagnosed with nonpermanent hearing loss and are receiving ongoing monitoring and medical care, but do not require Early Intervention services.

NOTE: This information represents preliminary data. Final 2009 numbers will not be available until January 2011.

Almost **89 percent** of parents whose infants or toddlers received EI services **agreed that EI staff explained what options parents have** if they disagree with a decision made by EI personnel. [2010 Annual Family Survey]



2009-2010

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Senate Public Health and
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Parent

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Kimberly Early

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Office of Legislative Affairs*

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**Pennsylvania Department
of Public Welfare**

Michael Nardone

Acting Secretary

Resources

Pennsylvania Department of Public Welfare

www.dpw.state.pa.us

Pennsylvania Department of Education

www.education.state.pa.us

Pennsylvania Department of Health

www.dsf.health.state.pa.us

**Pennsylvania Training and Technical
Assistance Network**

www.pattan.net

Parent to Parent of Pennsylvania

www.parenttoparent.org

CONNECT Information Service

800-692-7288, V/TTY



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