

Head Start Program Facts: Fiscal Year 2023



The Head Start program promotes school readiness for children from birth to age 5 in low-income families through services that support early learning and development, health, and family well-being. Head Start staff actively engage parents, recognizing family participation throughout the program as key to strong child outcomes. Since its inception in 1965, the Head Start program has served more than 40 million children and their families. In fiscal year (FY) 2023, the Head Start program was funded to serve 778,420 children, pregnant women, and pregnant people in centers, family homes, and family child care homes. The program is rooted in urban, suburban, and rural communities throughout the nation.

For term definitions and fact sheets from other years, see [Head Start Program Annual Fact Sheets](#).

Administration and Federal Budget

The Head Start program is administered by the federal Office of Head Start (OHS), within the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The U.S. Congress authorizes the amount of federal spending for the Head Start program each year. OHS awards nearly all funds directly to public agencies, private nonprofit and for-profit organizations, tribal governments, and school systems for operating Head Start programs in local communities.

Activity	Amount
Head Start Program, Including Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership	\$11,589,715,163
Training and Technical Assistance (TTA)	\$250,694,126
Research, Demonstration, and Evaluation	\$20,430,389
Monitoring Support	\$42,000,000
Program Support	\$68,176,092
Designation Renewal System (DRS) Transitions Support	\$25,000,000
Total	\$11,996,015,770

Annual Federal Funding and Funded Enrollment by State

The Head Start program serves children, families, and pregnant women and pregnant people in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and six territories. It encompasses Head Start preschool programs, which primarily serve 3- and 4-year-old children; Early Head Start (EHS) programs for infants, toddlers, and expectant families; American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) Head Start programs operated by tribal governments, tribal colleges, or tribal agencies; and Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) programs designed to provide program services to farmworker families.

The tables in this section present the total annual federal funding and funded enrollment of Head Start programs in each state and territory, listed by program type. Federal funding amounts include

neither TTA funding awarded directly to grant recipients nor state or other funding sources provided to local Head Start programs. Funded enrollment refers to the capacity or number of children and pregnant women and pregnant people supported by federal Head Start funds. It includes slots funded by state or other funds when used by grant recipients as required nonfederal match.

Federal Funded Enrollment and Amounts by State, Excluding AIAN and MSHS Programs

State	Head Start Preschool Funded Enrollment	EHS Funded Enrollment	Head Start Preschool Annual Operations Funded Amount	EHS Annual Operations Funded Amount
Alabama	9,197	3,243	\$111,391,105	\$62,634,542
Alaska	961	336	\$16,538,443	\$6,169,453
Arizona	9,109	3,098	\$131,652,067	\$60,473,542
Arkansas	5,465	3,513	\$54,709,528	\$63,784,919
California	50,574	24,884	\$916,864,291	\$541,092,149
Colorado	6,583	2,198	\$84,786,951	\$40,341,169
Connecticut	4,381	1,585	\$59,028,143	\$35,172,203
Delaware	1,245	471	\$15,830,013	\$8,083,074
District of Columbia	448	1,822	\$6,502,403	\$32,878,764
Florida	28,546	9,698	\$307,870,115	\$184,932,152
Georgia	17,255	4,838	\$195,222,403	\$94,281,695
Hawaii	2,181	721	\$24,500,949	\$11,154,870
Idaho	1,982	645	\$31,115,249	\$12,403,012
Illinois	17,736	11,043	\$248,022,840	\$207,071,808
Indiana	9,931	2,442	\$130,090,516	\$43,177,626
Iowa	5,157	1,770	\$59,823,657	\$29,945,134
Kansas	4,606	1,831	\$64,571,560	\$22,507,185
Kentucky	10,849	3,184	\$137,849,281	\$63,000,122
Louisiana	15,144	3,754	\$163,172,343	\$70,777,315
Maine	2,080	797	\$31,692,779	\$16,363,415
Maryland	6,738	2,254	\$86,567,495	\$49,009,268
Massachusetts	8,522	2,346	\$132,007,052	\$47,344,982
Michigan	20,739	6,853	\$277,972,254	\$129,499,746
Minnesota	7,357	2,138	\$101,149,937	\$38,477,180
Mississippi	16,169	3,770	\$181,453,404	\$69,773,816
Missouri	9,632	3,966	\$138,458,969	\$70,071,562
Montana	2,286	601	\$29,007,155	\$12,363,251
Nebraska	3,019	1,731	\$37,428,495	\$31,064,638
Nevada	585	912	\$9,075,095	\$19,573,614
New Hampshire	1,135	363	\$17,268,434	\$6,009,732
New Jersey	9,032	3,716	\$122,601,805	\$67,723,141

State	Head Start Preschool Funded Enrollment	EHS Funded Enrollment	Head Start Preschool Annual Operations Funded Amount	EHS Annual Operations Funded Amount
New Mexico	4,439	2,004	\$49,965,629	\$36,683,252
New York	38,360	12,504	\$552,210,035	\$224,602,165
North Carolina	13,757	4,920	\$161,785,836	\$104,758,014
North Dakota	1,381	356	\$19,620,418	\$8,090,422
Ohio	25,931	6,373	\$316,685,692	\$109,670,206
Oklahoma	9,088	3,507	\$85,992,296	\$67,543,261
Oregon	3,785	1,828	\$79,358,682	\$38,308,595
Pennsylvania	20,729	6,765	\$278,574,522	\$107,685,977
Rhode Island	1,610	675	\$26,722,734	\$11,258,089
South Carolina	8,916	2,466	\$101,494,324	\$46,114,555
South Dakota	1,937	529	\$22,846,675	\$8,962,494
Tennessee	12,858	2,159	\$152,638,575	\$43,634,815
Texas	51,195	14,189	\$538,423,499	\$262,691,687
Utah	3,853	1,357	\$65,523,542	\$26,114,236
Vermont	845	538	\$15,277,941	\$11,612,246
Virginia	10,712	3,002	\$119,480,010	\$54,443,923
Washington	6,960	3,310	\$118,236,904	\$71,133,277
West Virginia	6,642	1,082	\$66,755,014	\$17,262,429
Wisconsin	9,164	2,804	\$119,509,965	\$48,674,056
Wyoming	956	352	\$16,467,116	\$6,964,577
American Samoa	1,332	0	\$5,250,063	\$7,615
Federated States of Micronesia	0	0	\$0	\$0
Guam	534	0	\$4,215,811	\$6,115
Republic of the Marshall Islands	0	0	\$0	\$0
Northern Mariana Islands	396	64	\$2,903,746	\$1,178,136
Palau	350	0	\$2,183,899	\$3,168
Puerto Rico	19,381	5,158	\$220,910,561	\$99,424,548
Virgin Islands	794	120	\$10,053,224	\$2,134,946
Subtotal	544,549	186,585	\$7,077,311,444	\$3,556,117,883

AIAN funding is awarded to AIAN tribal governments. AIAN programs operate in 26 states, and in some cases, their services cross state lines.

AIAN Federal Funded Enrollment and Amounts by State

State	Head Start Preschool Funded Enrollment	EHS Funded Enrollment	Head Start Preschool Annual Operations Funded Amount	EHS Annual Operations Funded Amount
Alaska	1,479	429	\$29,300,948	\$10,029,246
Arizona	2,865	301	\$41,823,455	\$6,962,406
California	597	196	\$10,497,304	\$4,597,024
Colorado	56	0	\$854,802	\$0
Idaho	204	115	\$3,235,512	\$2,117,309
Kansas	62	47	\$1,277,955	\$1,091,082
Maine	60	0	\$1,136,730	\$0
Michigan	330	232	\$5,027,913	\$3,908,088
Minnesota	855	492	\$12,309,603	\$10,403,829
Mississippi	192	76	\$1,947,883	\$808,355
Montana	918	251	\$10,711,802	\$3,916,956
Nebraska	219	130	\$3,086,611	\$3,234,907
Nevada	362	0	\$4,955,380	\$0
New Mexico	1,180	252	\$15,360,876	\$4,083,690
New York	143	0	\$1,745,494	\$0
North Carolina	144	86	\$1,803,397	\$1,560,581
North Dakota	743	153	\$9,404,475	\$3,070,567
Oklahoma	2,131	390	\$23,331,928	\$7,930,473
Oregon	318	66	\$3,895,253	\$1,391,272
South Carolina	80	32	\$1,171,757	\$855,594
South Dakota	1,577	229	\$21,650,372	\$4,797,625
Texas	134	0	\$1,495,063	\$0
Utah	215	0	\$2,294,357	\$0
Washington	1,062	504	\$16,432,343	\$12,131,886
Wisconsin	694	368	\$8,577,501	\$7,032,591
Wyoming	165	96	\$1,901,331	\$1,537,898
Subtotal	16,785	4,445	\$235,230,045	\$91,461,379

MSSH funding and funded enrollment are shown as one total in the table below, as this program supports children and families who receive services in various states during the year. Thus, federal funding and funded enrollment for these services cannot be attributed to individual states. The totals do not include expansion funding opportunities that were posted but not awarded before end of FY 2023 for the listed program types.

Program Type	Annual Funded Enrollment	Annual Federal Operations Funding
Head Start Programs, Excluding AIAN and MSSH Programs	731,134	\$10,633,429,327

AIAN Head Start Programs	21,230	\$326,691,424
MSHS Programs	26,056	\$507,016,585
Total	778,420	\$11,467,137,336

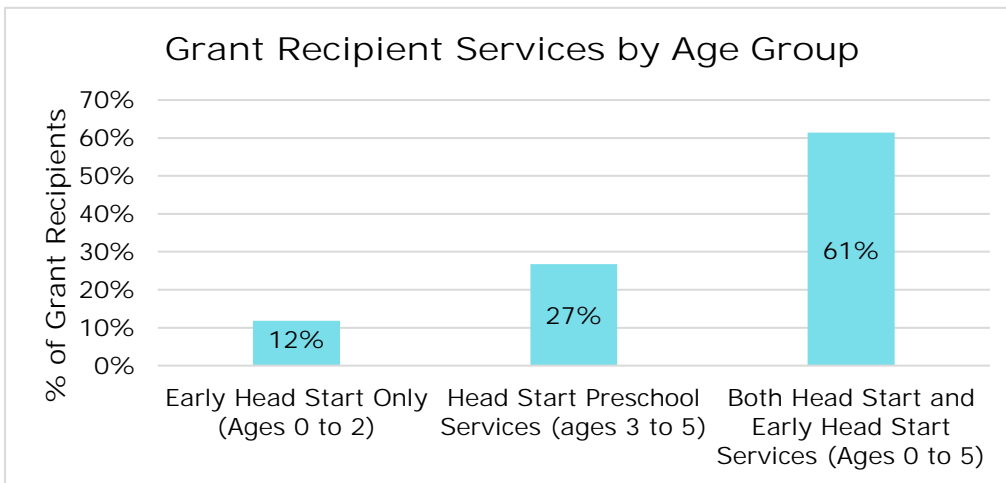
Program Year Statistics

Each year, Head Start programs are required to submit Program Information Reports (PIR) on the services they have provided to children and families throughout the program year, including child, family, and staff demographics and program characteristics.

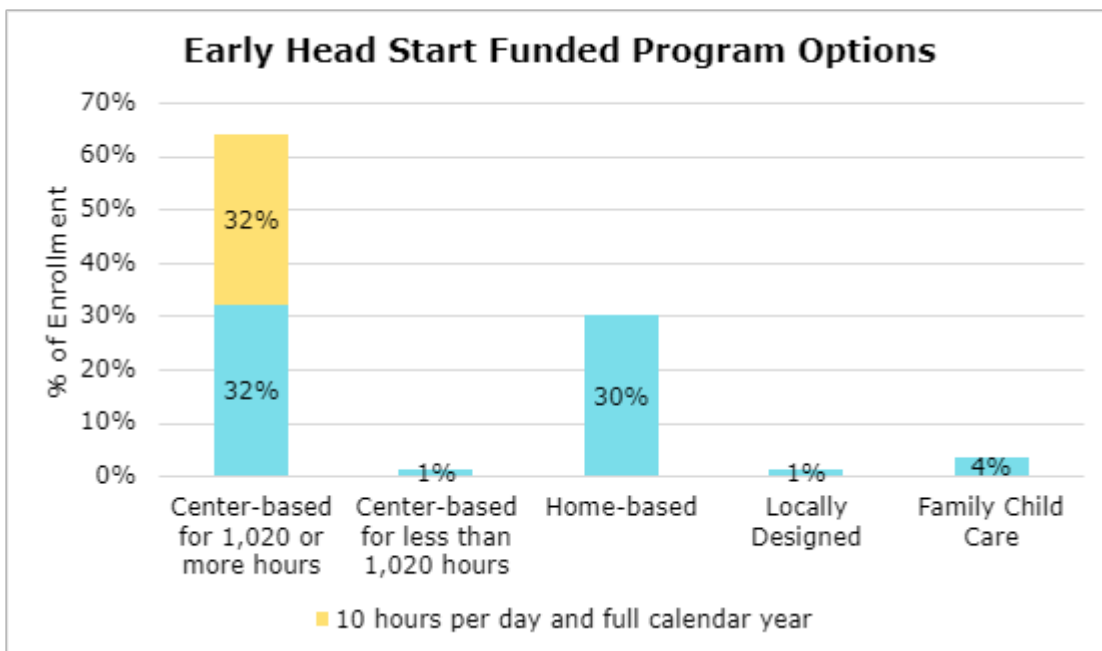
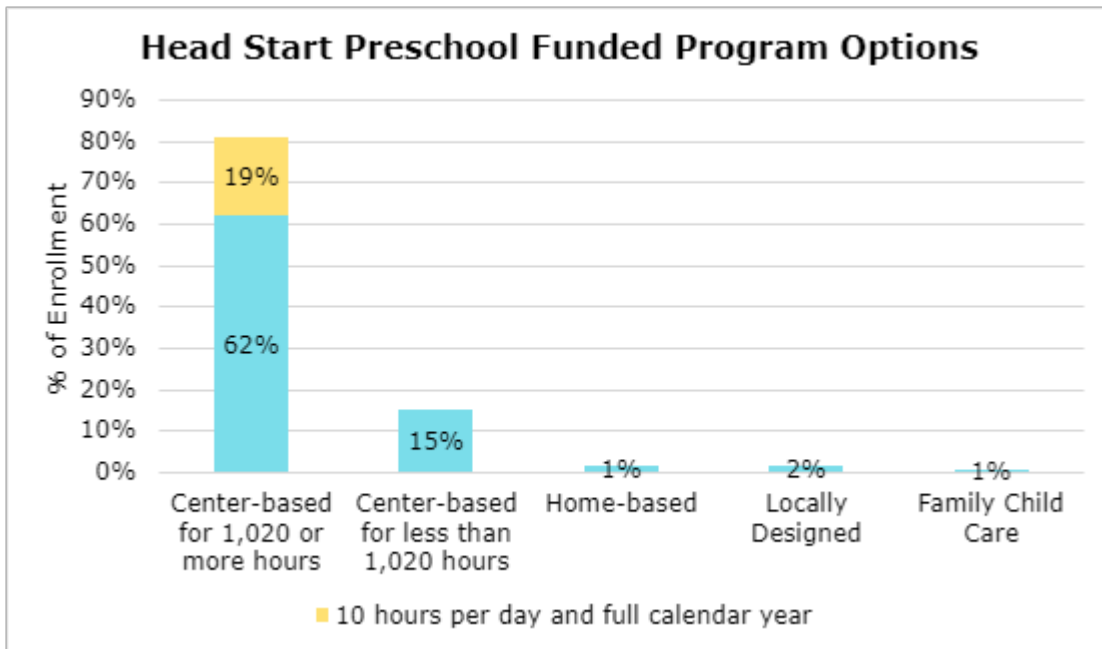
For a copy of the PIR form, detailed reports, data sets for the 2023 PIR and prior years, and further information, please visit the [Program Information Report \(PIR\) page](#).

Program Characteristics

Most grant recipients provided both Head Start and Early Head Start services during the 2022–2023 program year.



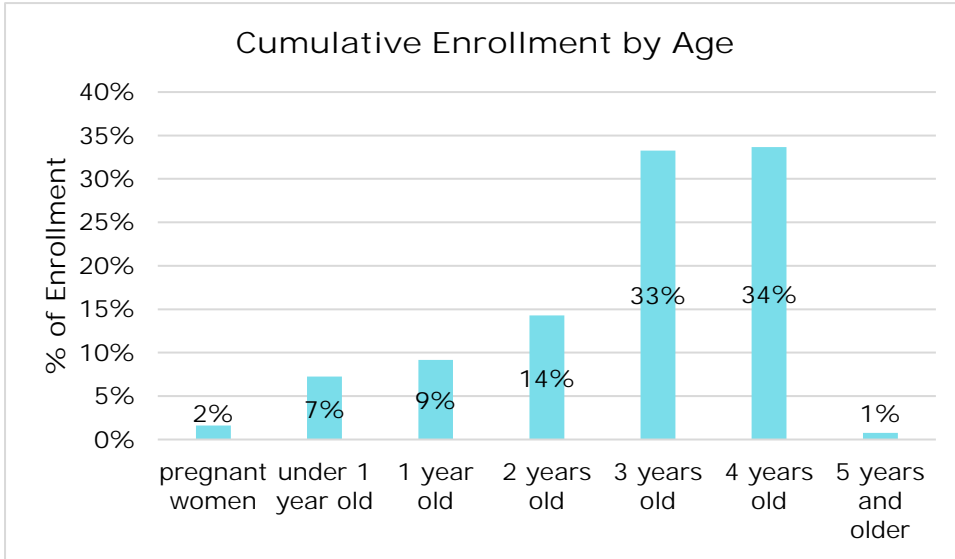
About 97% of funded Head Start preschool services were in center-based settings, and the majority were funded for 1,020 or more hours, including 20% to operate in center-based settings for 10 hours per day for the full calendar year. About 65% of funded EHS services were in center-based settings, including about 49% to operate in center-based settings for 10 hours per day for the full calendar year. Additionally, about 30% of funded EHS services were in home-based settings.



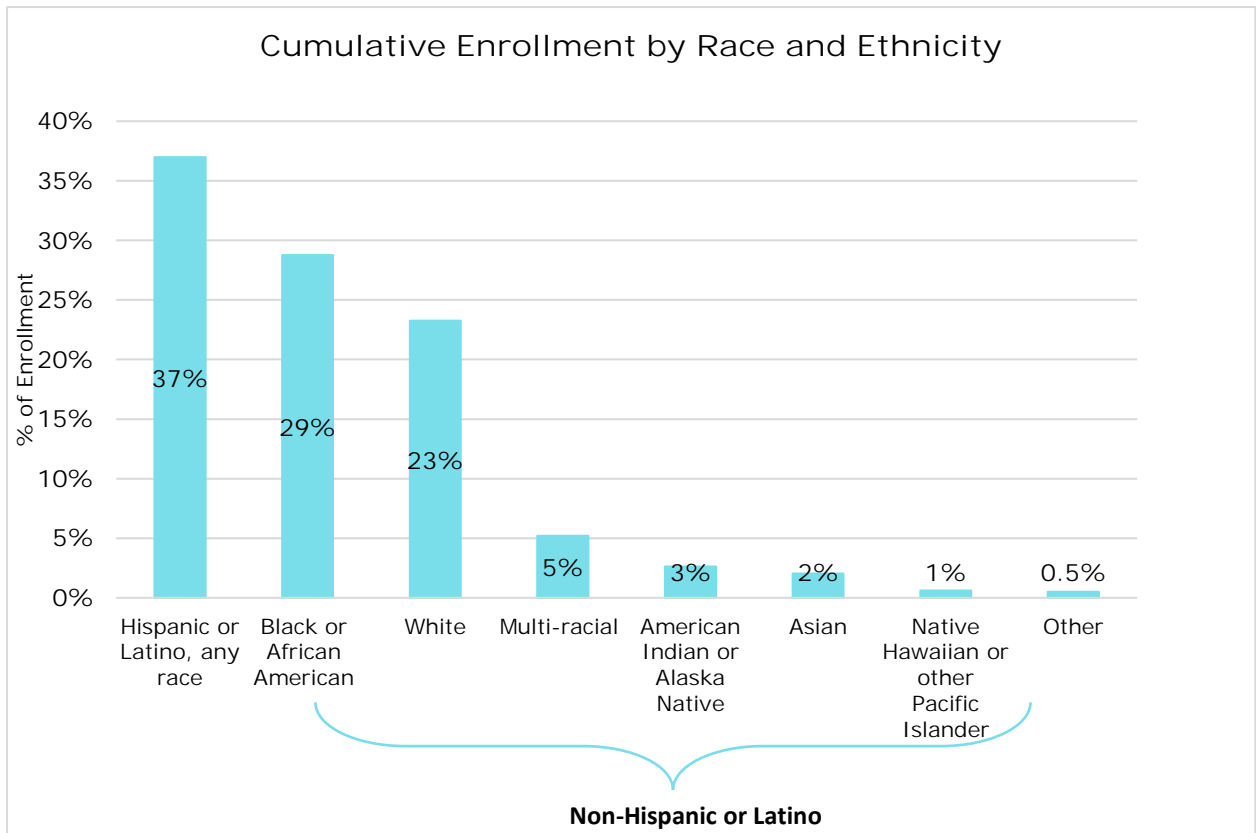
Child and Family Demographics

During the 2022–2023 program year, programs experienced significant challenges in meeting full enrollment during which were primarily workforce related and largely due to staff shortages. Head Start programs cumulatively served 799,901 children ages birth to 5 and pregnant women and pregnant people throughout the 2022–2023 program year.

Note that cumulative enrollment refers to the actual number of children, pregnant women, and pregnant people that Head Start programs served throughout the entire program year, inclusive of enrollees who left during the program year and the enrollees who filled those vacancies. Due to turnover, more children and expectant families may receive Head Start services cumulatively throughout the program year, all of whom are reported in the PIR, than indicated by the funded enrollment.

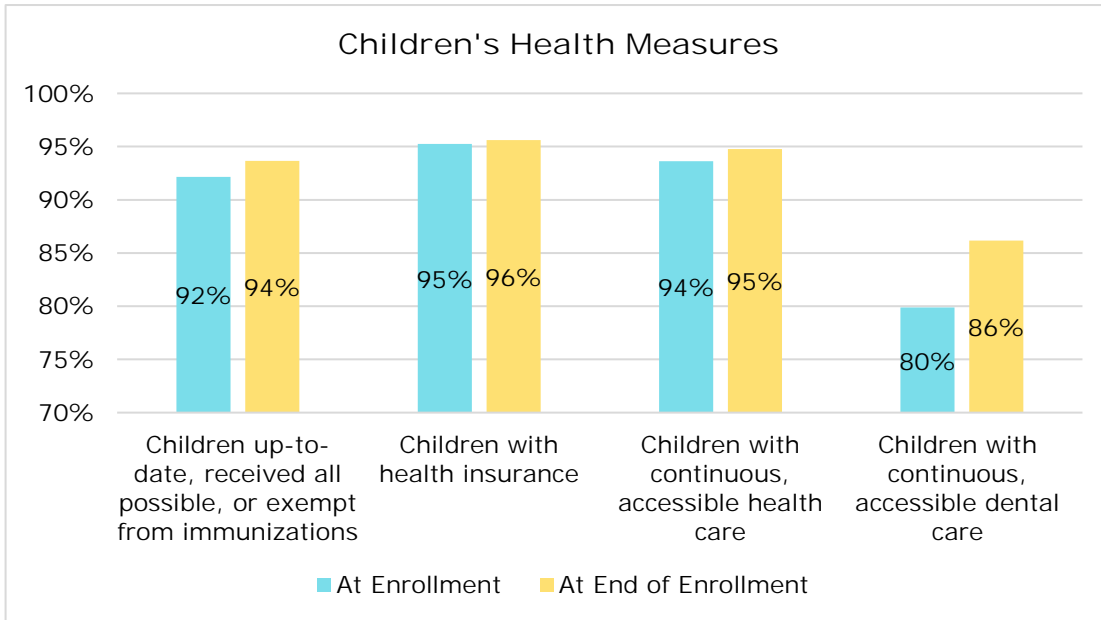


The Head Start program served a diverse group of children, families, and pregnant women and pregnant people. Thirty-seven percent identified themselves as Hispanic or Latino, and 29% were Black or African American, non-Hispanic or -Latino. Additionally, about 34% of children enrolled were dual language learners, of which nearly two-thirds were in families that primarily spoke Spanish at home.



Services to Children and Families

Head Start programs work with families to help ensure children have access to needed services and resources. The number of children who were up to date on immunizations (or had otherwise received all possible immunizations, or were exempt) increased from the beginning of the program year to the end of the program year. Also, more families had continuous, accessible health care and dental care for their children at the end of the 2022–2023 program year than at the beginning.



Head Start programs work with families to ensure they have the means to obtain health insurance, services for children with disabilities, adequate housing, job training, and more.

During the 2022–2023 program year:

- Most children had public health insurance. At the end of the program year, 96% of children had health insurance and were primarily enrolled in Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) program.
- Fourteen percent of Head Start cumulative enrollment was made up of children with disabilities, defined as children having special plans under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).
- Among pregnant women and pregnant people enrolled in EHS, approximately 86% received prenatal education on fetal development and 25% had medically high-risk pregnancies.
- The Head Start program served about 723,000 families cumulatively throughout the program year. The number of families served is less than the number of participants served, since some families have more than one child enrolled.
- Approximately 48,000 families served during the enrollment year experienced homelessness. Of those families, 23% found housing during the program year. Approximately 51,000 Head Start families received housing assistance, such as subsidies, utilities, and repairs.
- Approximately 80,000 families, or 11%, received services related to job training and adult education, such as general equivalency diploma (GED) programs and college selection.

Program Staff

Head Start programs employed and contracted with 250,000 staff. Parents of current or former Head Start children made up 23% of Head Start staff.

- Approximately 542,000 adults volunteered in their local Head Start program. Of these, 400,000 were parents of Head Start children.

- About 113,000 staff members provided child development services to children, including teachers, assistant teachers, home visitors, and family child care providers.
- Among child development staff, 31% were proficient in a language other than English
- Of all Head Start center-based preschool teachers, 68% had a baccalaureate degree or higher in early childhood education or a related field with experience. The Head Start Act specifies that 50% of center-based preschool teachers nationwide should have had these credentials by 2013.

