

Infant Toddler Early Intervention (EI) is an entitlement program that provides services to children from birth to their third birthday who have a developmental delay or a high probability of having a developmental delay, at no cost to families. In the first five years of a child's life, their brain is growing at a faster rate than any other time in their life. Investing in these early years has a significant return on investment well into adolescence and adulthood.

Benefits for children receiving EI services:

- ✓ Reduced educational costs by minimizing the need for special education
- ✓ Enhanced capacity of families to meet their child's needs
- ✓ Improved child health and education outcomes
- ✓ Enhanced development of infants and toddlers with disabilities

What does the Early Intervention process look like for families?

Referral

Initiates evaluation

Anyone can make a referral online, through the statewide CONNECT helpline, or by email

Evaluation

Determines eligibility

The EI team evaluates child development across five domains: physical, cognitive, communication, social-emotional, and adaptive skills

IFSP Creation

Within 45 days of referral

If a child is found eligible, the team will create an individualized family service plan (IFSP) to identify goals and services

Service Delivery

Within 14 days of IFSP creation

Services begin as soon as possible and are embedded into the child's natural routines at home or in community settings

Transition Planning

At least 90 days before the child's 3rd birthday

The team will help families transition to Preschool Early Intervention or other community programs



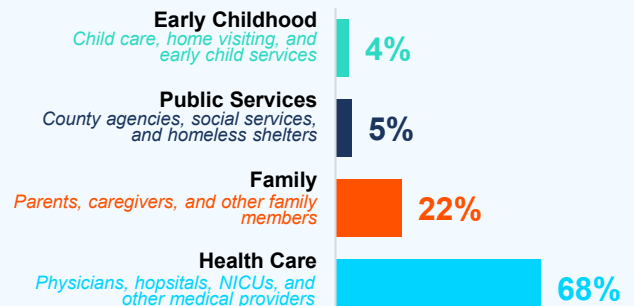
children can be referred by multiple sources

Children Served

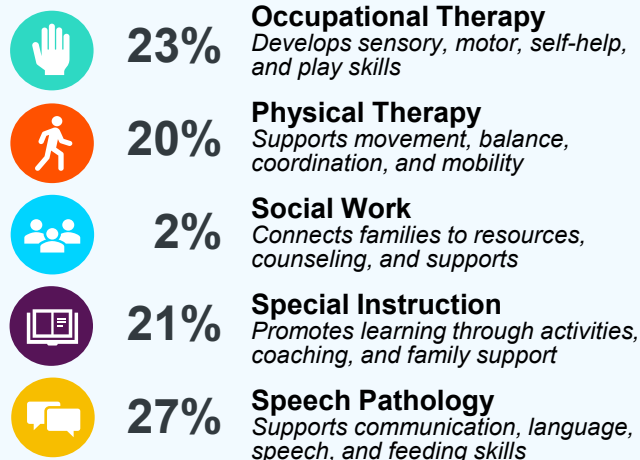
48,204
infants and toddlers participating in EI services in FY 2024-25

6.5%
of children under age 3 served by EI
comparison of 12/1 enrollment to U.S. Decennial Census data

Source of Eligible Referrals



Most Common Services Provided



Following state/federal timeliness laws:

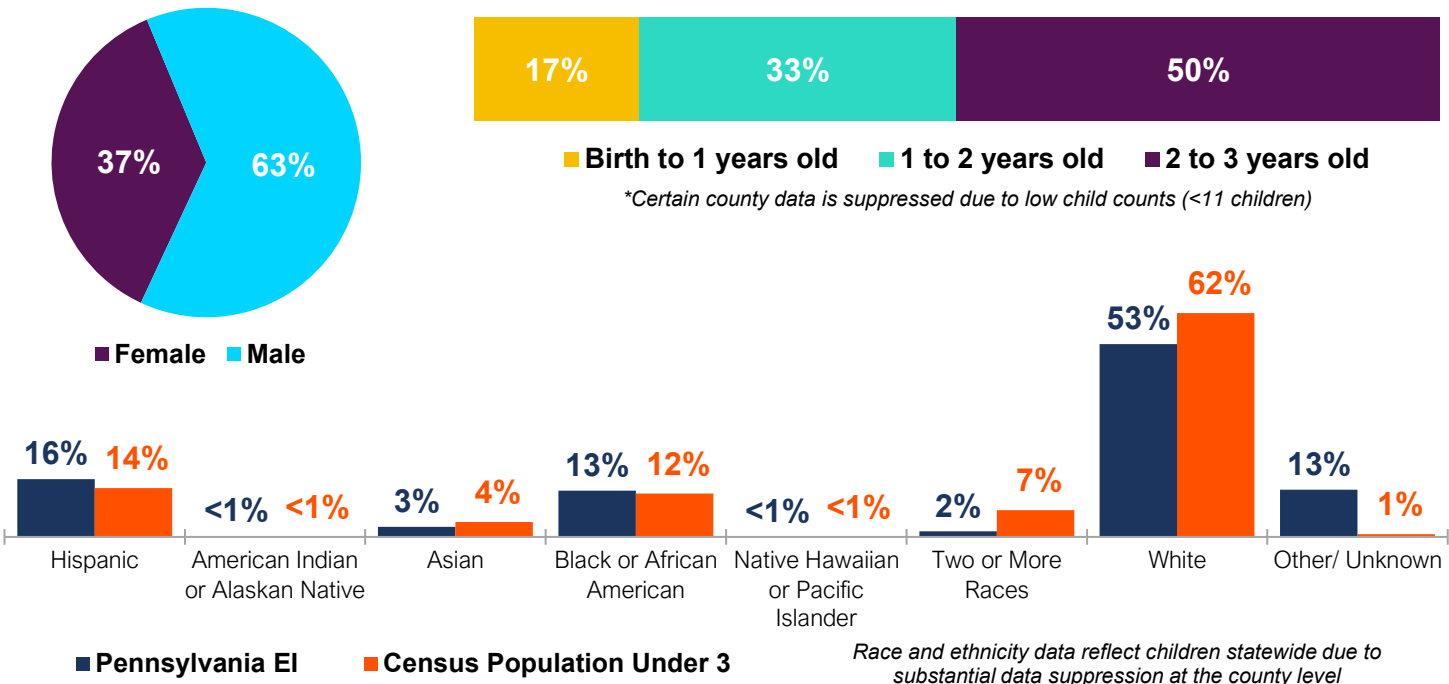
97%
of IFSPs are created within 45 days of referral

93%
of services are initiated within 14 days of IFSP creation

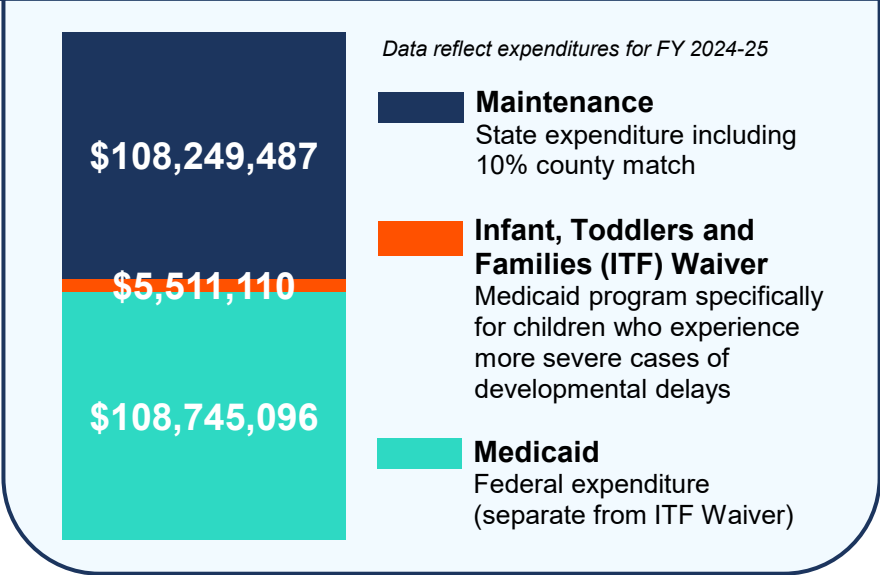
Additional Infant Toddler EI Facts

States are authorized by Part C of the Federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) to administer the program, and in Pennsylvania, Infant Toddler EI is overseen by the Department of Human Services with statewide general administration by the Office of Child Development and Early Learning. Each county or county joinder then administers the program individually.

What do we know about infants and toddlers served by EI?



Infant Toddler EI Funding by Source



EI Workforce



Thriving PA is an initiative of the Early Learning Pennsylvania coalition, which advocates for access to voluntary, high-quality early care and education and healthy development opportunities for every child in Pennsylvania. The EI Workgroup of Thriving PA is led by Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children and Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children.