2015 National Head Start Fact Sheet

Children in Poverty and Access to Head Start

In 2014-2015, there were 4,770,452 children in poverty under age five. Of those, only 41% of three and four year olds had access to Head Start. And only 4% of children under three had access to Early Head Start.

Total Funded Enrollment: 941,149

- 770,791 Head Start (HS)
- 116,740 Early Head Start (EHS)
- 31,239 Migrant / Seasonal HS
- 132,955 had a disability
- 18,718 American Indian / Alaska Native HS
- 3,661 American Indian / Alaska Native EHS
- 28.90% were dual-language learners
- 42,144 were homeless

Comprehensive and Two-Generation Services

Head Start takes a comprehensive approach to meeting the needs of the whole child and whole family. This two-generation approach supports stability and long-term success for the families who are most at risk. Depending on each family’s needs, they receive a wide range of individualized services. In 2015, families participated in:

- 123,904 Adult Education
- 83,507 Workforce training
- 513,022 Parenting Classes
- 51,311 Dual-language classes
- 85,442 Support for Homeless Families
- 170,248 Emergency Crisis Intervention

By the Numbers:

- $8,098,000,358 FY 2015 Estimated HS/EHS Funding
- $8,533,095,000 FY 2016 Estimated Funding

- 1039 Early Head Start Grantees and Subgrantees
- 1592 Head Start Grantees and Subgrantees
- 57 American Indian / Alaskan Native Early Head Start Grantees and Subgrantees
- 146 American Indian / Alaskan Native Head Start Grantees and Subgrantees
- 50 Migrant / Seasonal Head Start Grantees and Subgrantees

Thanks to Head Start’s comprehensive services, by the end of the school year children have received education, health, and nutrition services:

- 89.10% were up-to-date on all immunizations
- 90.60% received continuous access to dental care
- 96.60% had access to a stable medical home

“Head Start has significant beneficial short-term effects, strong long-term effects and deserves government investment.”

Dr. James J. Heckman, Nobel Laureate

from Early Childhood Education: Making Sense of All the Research
About the National Head Start Association

NHSA is a nonprofit organization committed to the belief that every child, regardless of circumstances at birth, has the ability to succeed in life. NHSA is the voice for more than 1 million children, 200,000 staff and 1,600 Head Start grantees in the United States. Since 1974, NHSA has worked diligently for policy changes that ensure all at-risk children have access to the Head Start model of support for the whole child, the family and the community.

For citations and other state fact sheets, visit www.nhsa.org/fact-sheets

Produced by NHSA’s Center for Policy, Data, and Research

The NHSA Center for Policy, Data, and Research generates new knowledge to lead reform for stronger child and family outcomes, informed by outstanding practices from the Head Start community.