



Head Start Program Facts

Fiscal Year 2012

Established in 1965, Head Start promotes school readiness for children in low-income families by offering educational, nutritional, health, social, and other services. Since its inception, Head Start has served more than 30 million children, birth to age 5, and their families. In 2012, Head Start was funded to serve nearly one million children and pregnant women in centers, family homes, and in family child care homes in urban, suburban, and rural communities throughout the nation. ([More on Head Start](#))

Throughout this Fact Sheet, unless otherwise specified, the term "Head Start" refers to the Head Start program as a whole, including: Head Start services to preschool children; Early Head Start services to infants, toddlers, and pregnant women; services to families by American Indian and Alaskan Native (AIAN) programs; and services to families by Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) programs.

The term "funded enrollment" refers to the number of children and pregnant women that are supported by federal Head Start funds in a program at any one time during the program year; these are sometimes referred to as enrollment slots. Funded enrollment numbers include enrollment slots funded by state or other funds when used by grantees as required nonfederal match. States may provide additional funding to local Head Start programs which is not included in federal Head Start reporting.

The term "cumulative enrollment" refers to the actual number of children and pregnant women 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 empty places. Due to turnover, more children and families may receive Head Start services cumulatively throughout the program year, all of whom are reported in the Program Information Report (PIR), than indicated by the funded enrollment numbers.

Federal Funding

The Congress of the United States authorizes the amount of federal spending for Head Start each year. The Head Start program is administered by the Office of Head Start, Administration for Children and Families (ACF) within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Federal grants are awarded directly to public agencies, private non-profit and for-profit organizations, tribal governments, and school systems for the purpose of operating Head Start programs in local communities.

Head Start Federal Funding	
Local Head Start Projects	Appropriation
States and Territories	\$7,132,202,000
American Indian/Alaska Native and Migrant and Seasonal Programs	\$550,218,000
Subtotal	\$7,682,420,000
Support Activities	
Training and Technical Assistance	\$199,213,000
Research, Demonstration, and Evaluation	\$19,962,000
Monitoring and Program Review	\$41,921,000
Program Support	\$25,028,000
Subtotal	\$286,124,000
TOTAL¹	\$7,968,544,000
¹ The total above represents the funding available to the Head Start program after a rescission. The initial appropriation was \$7,983,633,000.	

Federal Funding and Funded Enrollment by State

The Head Start program serves children, families, and pregnant women in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and six territories. The table in this section presents the total allocations and funded enrollment of Head Start programs in each state and territory.

American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) funding is awarded to American Indian and Alaska Native tribal governments. AIAN programs operate in 26 states, and in some cases, their services cross state lines. Migrant and Seasonal Head Start funding and funded enrollment are shown as one total, 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 simply be attributed to individual states.

Federal Funding and Funded Enrollment by State				
STATE/ TERRITORY	FEDERAL FUNDING by State/Territory	FUNDED ENROLLMENT by State/Territory	FEDERAL FUNDING for AIAN¹	FUNDED ENROLLMENT for AIAN¹
Alabama	\$125,717,736	17,301		
Alaska	\$14,373,541	1,761	\$20,079,615	1,645
Arizona	\$121,746,967	14,137	\$44,089,841	5,866
Arkansas	\$75,176,442	10,814		
California	\$957,971,585	104,950	\$7,910,270	632
Colorado	\$80,798,717	10,624	\$2,302,126	191
Connecticut	\$58,755,649	7,357		
Delaware	\$15,341,871	2,209		
District of Columbia	\$27,867,030	3,328		
Florida	\$313,310,850	38,304		
Georgia	\$198,596,452	25,112		
Hawaii	\$25,594,284	3,187		
Idaho	\$27,252,585	3,135	\$3,534,547	325
Illinois	\$314,325,492	41,644		
Indiana	\$115,222,711	15,515		
Iowa	\$59,267,964	8,133		
Kansas	\$59,800,770	8,751	\$1,072,632	84
Kentucky	\$125,505,972	16,938		
Louisiana	\$167,980,835	22,054		
Maine	\$31,534,389	3,536	\$743,898	60
Maryland	\$89,394,017	10,885		
Massachusetts	\$122,724,674	13,295		
Michigan	\$267,668,992	35,961	\$6,873,702	610
Minnesota	\$83,787,316	11,410	\$10,468,877	949
Mississippi	\$180,315,944	27,323	\$2,209,241	276
Missouri	\$138,965,174	18,186		
Montana	\$23,985,541	3,071	\$15,162,080	1,709

Federal Funding and Funded Enrollment by State				
STATE/ TERRITORY	FEDERAL FUNDING by State/Territory	FUNDED ENROLLMENT by State/Territory	FEDERAL FUNDING for AIAN¹	FUNDED ENROLLMENT for AIAN¹
Nebraska	\$42,187,836	5,452	\$1,934,560	226
Nevada	\$29,960,223	3,100	\$3,503,807	362
New Hampshire	\$15,540,919	1,764		
New Jersey	\$149,580,131	15,661		
New Mexico	\$62,550,656	7,839	\$16,643,144	1,739
New York	\$493,984,026	51,696	\$1,287,788	143
North Carolina	\$171,736,149	20,484	\$2,775,426	246
North Dakota	\$20,059,789	2,498	\$9,936,185	1,000
Ohio	\$286,668,880	39,106		
Oklahoma	\$97,666,553	13,925	\$23,345,013	2,848
Oregon	\$70,304,700	12,502	\$3,623,067	380
Pennsylvania	\$261,801,900	36,955		
Rhode Island	\$25,043,856	2,966		
South Carolina	\$99,208,187	13,225	\$927,666	80
South Dakota	\$21,605,345	2,987	\$15,947,595	1,690
Tennessee	\$137,123,145	17,323		
Texas	\$559,620,987	71,963	\$432,949	34
Utah	\$45,113,078	6,117	\$1,857,516	215
Vermont	\$15,143,423	1,562		
Virginia	\$115,286,747	14,462		
Washington	\$117,458,766	12,404	\$14,132,725	1,415
West Virginia	\$58,201,030	8,075		
Wisconsin	\$105,184,250	14,407	\$10,311,767	1,058
Wyoming	\$13,438,273	1,824	\$2,784,939	295
Subtotal States:	\$6,837,452,349	857,218		
<i>Subtotal Indian Tribes:</i>			\$223,890,976	24,078
<i>Migrant Program</i>	\$326,375,159	34,583		
American Samoa	\$2,265,358	1,332		
Guam	\$2,479,936	534		
No. Marianas	\$1,753,383	462		
Palau	\$1,404,891	509		
Puerto Rico	\$278,051,317	36,767		
Virgin Islands	\$9,424,359	1,014		
TOTAL	\$7,683,097,728	956,497		
¹ AIAN funding is awarded to American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. For reference, the funding and enrollment has been split out by the state in which the tribe is headquartered. Some tribes serve children across state lines.				

Program Year Statistics

Each year, Head Start programs are required to submit Program Information Reports (PIRs) 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 and data sets for the 2012 PIR and prior years, and for further information, please visit: <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/pir>.

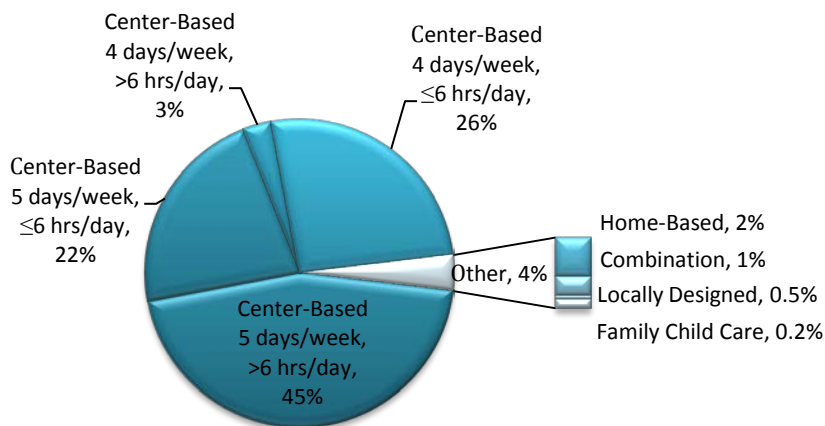
Program Characteristics:

About 1,600 organizations (grantees) operated programs during the 2011-2012 program year.

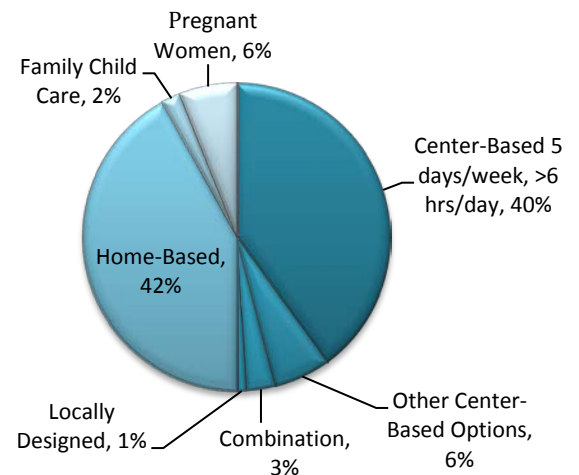
- 43 percent of grantees operated Head Start preschool services only.
- 13 percent of grantees operated Early Head Start (EHS) services only.
- 45 percent of grantees operated both Head Start and Early Head Start services.

Most Head Start preschool services were provided in center-based settings that, based on local design, vary in the number of days per week and hours per day classes are in session. About half of EHS services were provided in center based settings, and half were offered in home-based program settings.

Head Start Preschool Program Options



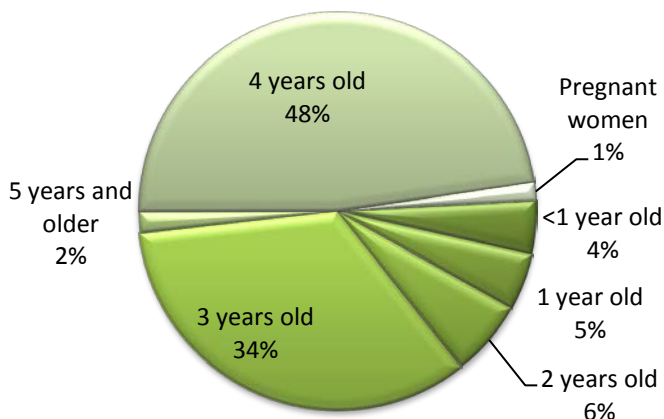
Early Head Start Program Options



Child and Family Demographics:

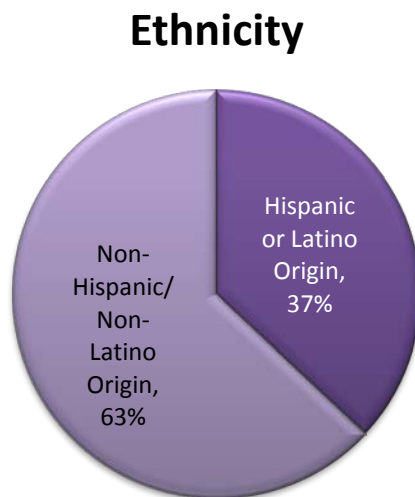
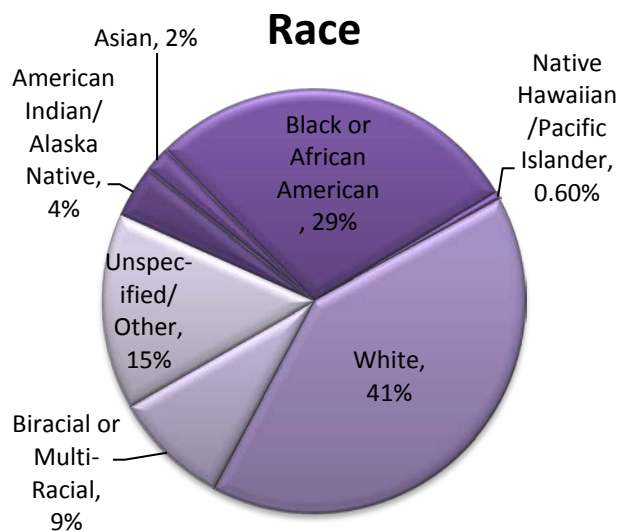
Head Start programs cumulatively served 1,142,000 children ages birth to 5 and pregnant women throughout the 2011-2012 program year.

Cumulative Enrollment by Age



Head Start served a diverse group of children, families, and pregnant women. Nearly 40 percent identified themselves as Hispanic/Latino, and almost 29 percent were Black/African American.

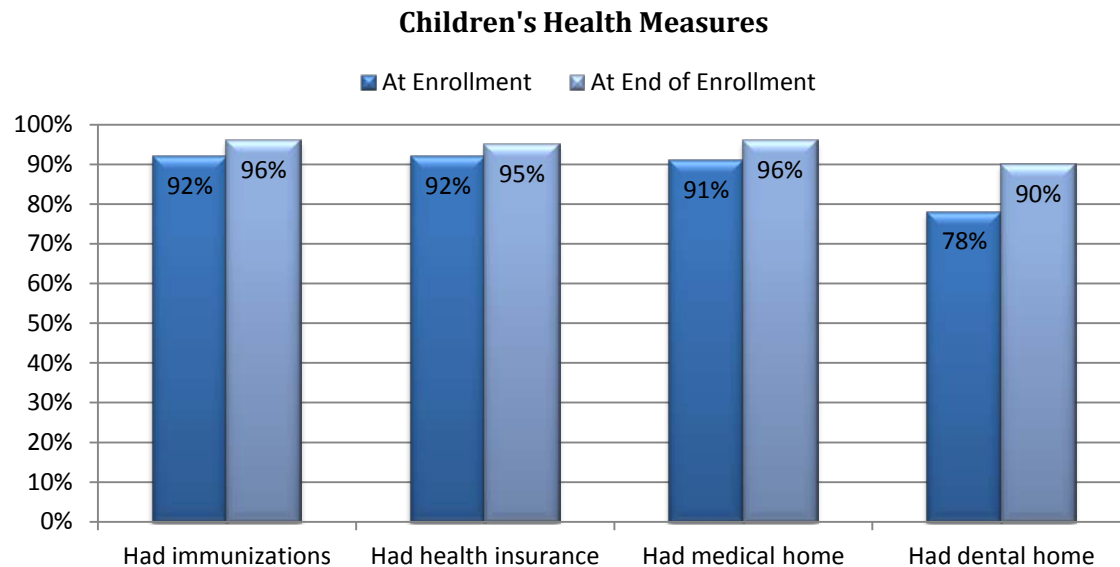
Families were asked to self-identify both an ethnicity and a race category based on U.S. Census Bureau measures. For example, a family that identifies their child as Black and Cuban was counted in the “Black or African American” race category for the race question and counted in the “Hispanic or Latino” category for the separate question on ethnicity.



Thirty percent of participants were from families that primarily spoke a language other than English at home. Twenty-five percent of participants were from 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 received immunizations increased from the beginning of the program year to the end of the program year. Also, more families had health insurance, and medical and dental homes for their children at the end of the 2011-12 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. In FY 2012:

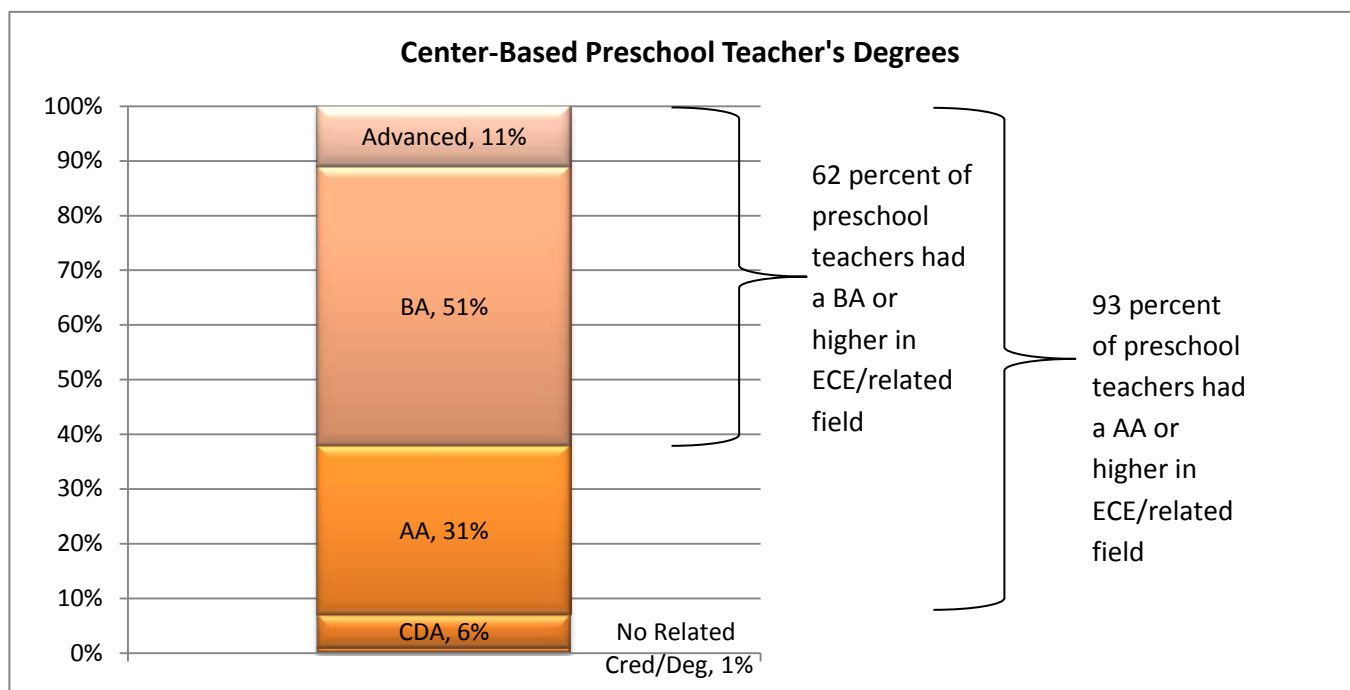
- Most children had public health insurance. At the end of the program year, 87 percent of children were enrolled in Medicaid, CHIP, or a state funded child health insurance program.
- Twelve percent of Head Start cumulative enrollment was made up of children with disabilities, defined as children having special plans under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). In comparison, nationally about three percent of infants and toddlers and six percent of preschool-age children have identified disabilities. Head Start serves a greater percentage of children with disabilities than found in the overall population.
- Among pregnant women enrolled in EHS, 93 percent received prenatal education on fetal development and 21 percent had medically high risk pregnancies.
- Head Start served about 1,045,000 families cumulatively throughout the program year. The number of families served is a little less than the number of participants served, since some families have more than one child enrolled.
- Over 49,000 families served during the enrollment year experienced homelessness. Of those families, 36 percent found housing during the program year. Over 130,000 Head Start families received housing assistance such as subsidies, utilities, and repairs.

- Over 271,000 families, or 26 percent, received services related to job training and adult education.

Program Staff:

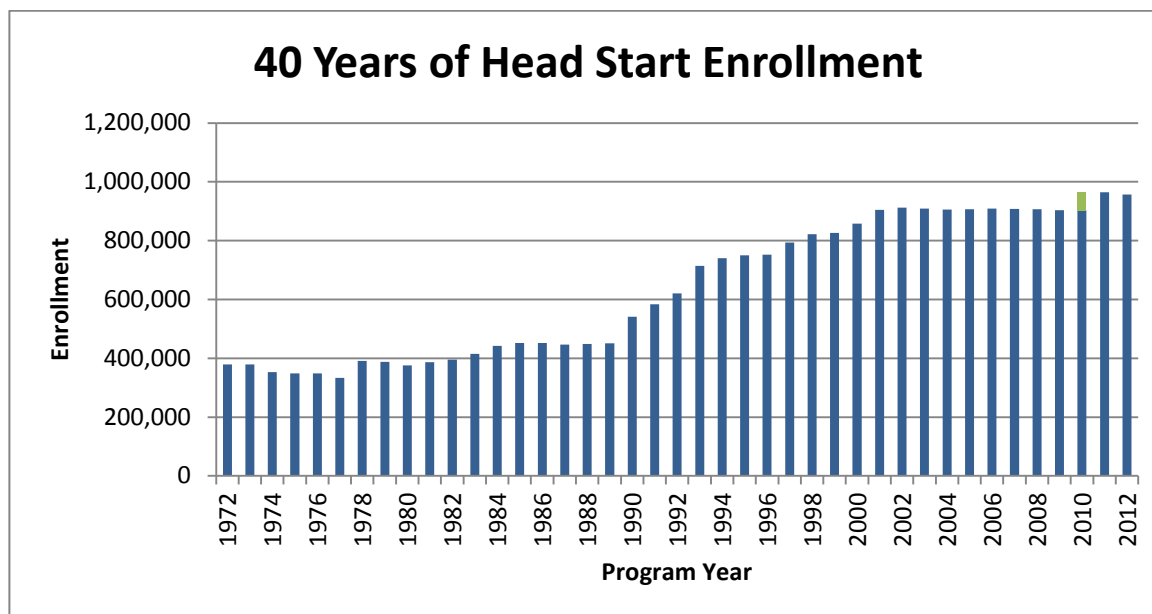
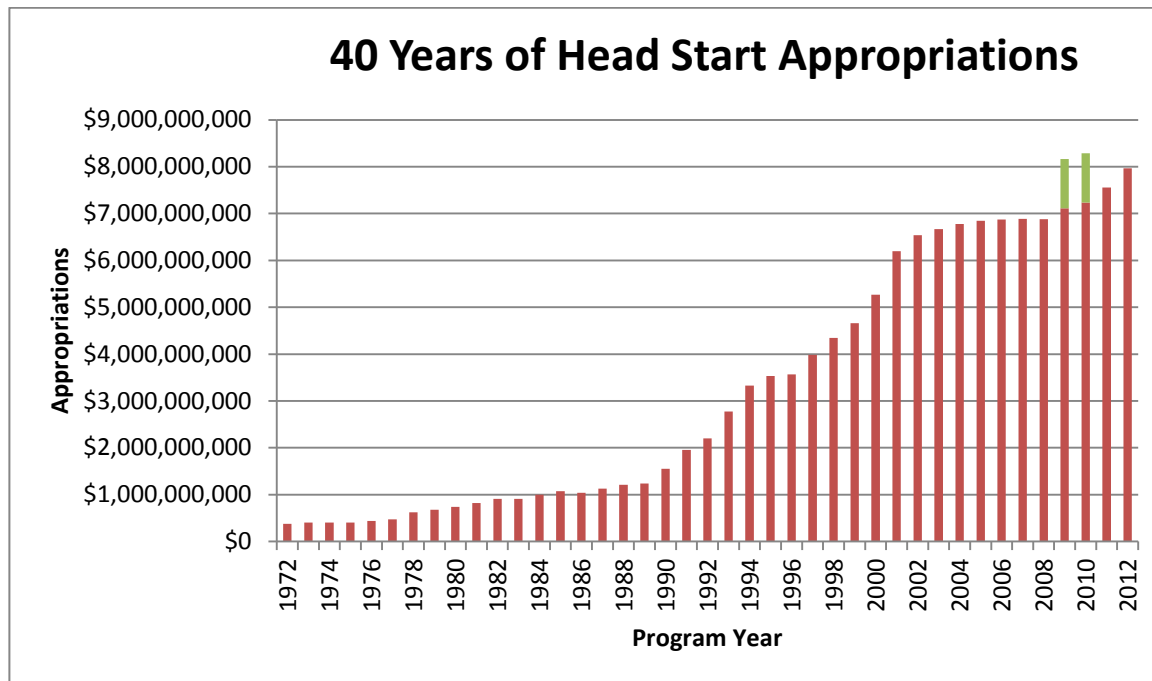
Head Start programs employed and contracted with 245,000 staff. Parents of current or former Head Start children made up 25 percent of Head Start staff.

- More than 1.3 million adults volunteered in their local Head Start program. Of these, 867,000 were parents of Head Start children.
- About 123,000 staff members provided child development services to children, including teachers, assistant teachers, home visitors, and family child care providers.
- Among child development staff, 30 percent were proficient in a language other than English.
- Sixty-two percent of all Head Start center-based preschool teachers had a Baccalaureate degree or higher in early childhood education, or in a related field with experience. The Head Start Act specifies that 50 percent of center-based preschool teachers nationwide should have these credentials by 2013.



Head Start Federal Funding and Funded Enrollment History

The graphs and tables below depict the last 40 years of Head Start federal funding and funded enrollment history.



The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), enacted in February 2009, appropriated \$2.1 billion to the Head Start program and was available for obligation over a two-year period. These funds are displayed on the graph in green. ARRA funds supported a variety of activities, including but not limited to: a cost-of-living adjustment, quality improvement, and an expansion of Head Start and Early Head Start enrollment by 61,000 children, families, and pregnant women. This enrollment increase is also displayed on the graph in green. The funding was primarily for one-time purposes, but Congress provided funding in subsequent appropriations to continue a portion of the funding spent on a cost-of-living adjustment. Additionally, all of the funding necessary to sustain the expansion of Head Start and Early Head Start services to 61,000 additional funded enrollment slots

for children, families and pregnant women was appropriated across fiscal years 2011 and 2012.

Head Start Federal Funding and Funded Enrollment History

Year	Federal Funding	Funded Enrollment
1965 (summer only)	\$96,400,000	561,000
1966	198,900,000	733,000
1967	349,200,000	681,400
1968	316,200,000	693,900
1969	333,900,000	663,600
1970	325,700,000	477,400
1971	360,000,000	397,500
1972	376,300,000	379,000
1973	400,700,000	379,000
1974	403,900,000	352,800
1975	403,900,000	349,000
1976	441,000,000	349,000
1977	475,000,000	333,000
1978	625,000,000	391,400
1979	680,000,000	387,500
1980	735,000,000	376,300
1981	818,700,000	387,300
1982	911,700,000	395,800
1983	912,000,000	414,950
1984	995,750,000	442,140
1985	1,075,059,000	452,080
1986	1,040,315,000	451,732
1987	1,130,542,000	446,523
1988	1,206,324,000	448,464
1989	1,235,000,000	450,970
1990	1,552,000,000	540,930
1991	1,951,800,000	583,471
1992	2,201,800,000	621,078
1993	2,776,286,000	713,903
1994	3,325,728,000	740,493

Year	Federal Funding	Funded Enrollment
1995	3,534,128,000	750,696
1996	3,569,329,000	752,077
1997	3,980,546,000	793,809
1998	4,347,433,000	822,316
1999	4,658,151,000	826,016
2000	5,267,000,000	857,664
2001	6,199,123,000	905,235
2002	6,536,570,000	912,345
2003	6,667,533,000	909,608
2004	6,774,848,000	905,851
2005	6,843,114,000	906,993
2006	6,872,062,000	909,201
2007	6,888,571,000	908,412
2008	6,877,975,000	906,992
2009	7,112,786,000	904,153
<i>Recovery Act</i>	<i>2,100,000,000</i>	<i>61,078</i>
2010	7,234,783,000	904,118
2011	7,559,634,000	964,430
2012	7,968,544,000	956,497