

Early Head Start in South Dakota

The federal Early Head Start was started in 1994 to address the comprehensive needs of low-income pregnant women, and infants and toddlers under age three.¹ Early Head Start programs provide safe and developmentally enriching care, which promotes the physical, cognitive, social and emotional development of infants and toddlers—preparing them for future growth and development. Early Head Start supports parents, both mothers and fathers, in their role as primary caregivers and teachers of their children.²



The first 1,000 days of a child's life are the most important. Early Childhood Education improves the brain by providing and cultivating relationships at the Early Head Start Center, and at home. The connections made early lead to better academic performance, economic success, health, and resiliency later in life.

There are 8 Early
Head Starts in
South Dakota

5 Local Early
Head Starts

3 Tribal
Government

Introduction

This *Facts on KIDS in South Dakota* will focus on Early Head Start, a program for infants and toddlers. The monograph will delve into the families of participating children, and Early Head Start services. Early education is important to ready children for future schooling, and later in adulthood.

School Readiness

Early Head Start programs identify broad goals through screenings, assessments, evaluations, and observations to learn each child's interests, strengths, and needs to prepare them for further education, thus readying them for school.

By creating supportive, nurturing spaces, children can learn through play, and age-appropriate activities.

Home cultures are integrated into the environment to create a welcoming area for the infants, toddlers, and their families.



Early Head Start Families

Number of Families 2013-2014

Total number of families Early Head Start South Dakota: 868

Two Parent Families: 47%

Single Parent Families: 53%

Federal or Other Assistance 2013-2014

Families Receiving TANF Benefits: 9%

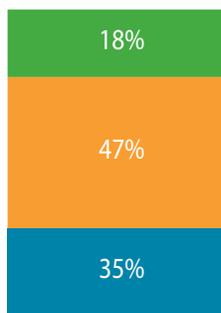
Families Receiving SSI Benefits: 6%

Families Receiving WIC Benefits: 66%

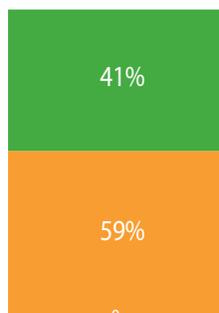
Families Receiving SNAP Benefits: 59%

South Dakota Early Head Start Parental Employment 2013-2014

■ Both Parents Employed ■ One Parent Employed/Parent Employed ■ Both Parents/Parent Not Working



TWO PARENT FAMILIES



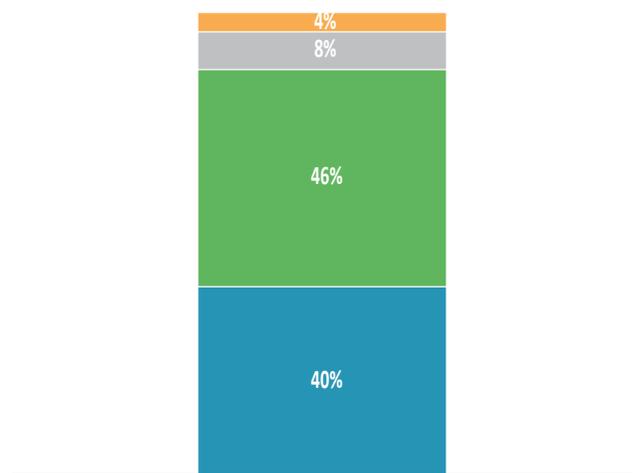
SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES

One of the main goals of Early Head Start is to support parents, both mothers and fathers, in their role as primary caregivers and teachers of their children. Programs work to empower families by developing goals for themselves and their children. A strategic plan is created by staff and family members that focuses on the child's developmental needs, and the family's social and economic needs. This will ensure success in the program for all involved.³

Parent/Guardian Education Level 2013-2014



Race of Child Enrolled in Early Head Start in South Dakota 2013-2014



EARLY HEAD START

■ American Indian/Alaskan Native ■ White ■ Biracial or Multi-Racial ■ Black or African American

Services for Pregnant Women and Expectant Families

Early Head Start provides services for pregnant women and expectant families that offer:

- early and ongoing support to ensure healthy pregnancies and childbirth;
- supportive care for parents and child after the delivery;
- fathers to be fully involved in the lives of their children; and
- parents to develop as nurturing, responsive caregivers.

Pregnant Women in South Dakota 2013-2014

Total Funded Pregnant Women in South Dakota: 91

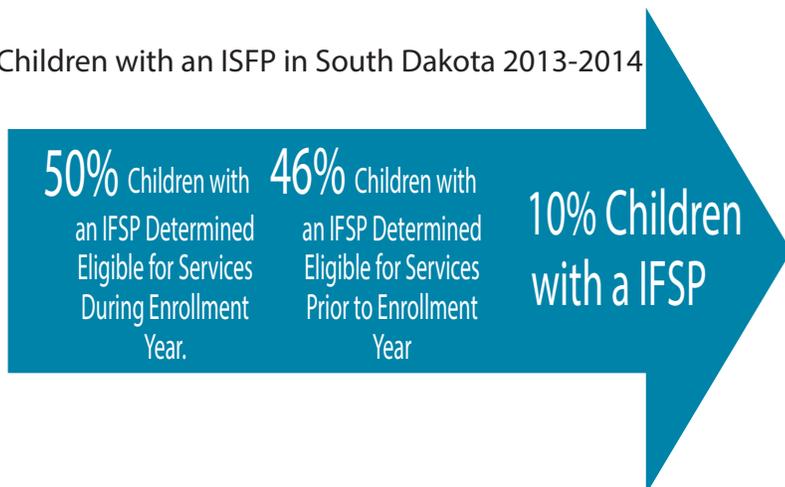


Services for Children with Disabilities

Because special needs often show up within the first three years of a child’s life, Early Head Start partners with Early Intervention programs to assist infants and toddlers with special needs. Since 1972, Head Start programs have made available at least 10 percent of their enrollment opportunities to children with disabilities.⁶

Early Head Start programs follow an IFSP (Individualized Family Service Plan) when caring for the children.

Children with an ISFP in South Dakota 2013-2014



Services Provided by Early Head Start

Early Head Start services include quality early education in and out of the home by providing home visits; parent education (including parent-child activities); comprehensive health services; nutrition; and ongoing support for parents through case management and peer support groups.

Nutrition, Health, and Safety Services

Good health is essential to a child’s growth, development, and learning capabilities. Early Head Start supports infant and toddler health and wellness, along with mental, physical, and social well-being.

Early Head Start provides healthy meals that constitute as one half to two-thirds of their daily nutritional needs. When a child receives nutritious food, he or she can build from this foundation to healthy growth and development.

Tooth decay is the most common childhood disease, and can lead to physical and psychological disabilities, as well as significant morbidity in adulthood. Early Head Start programs teach children and families effective oral health practices to prevent these problems from arising.⁴

Safety and Injury Prevention is fundamental to Early Head Start’s mission. Programs provide safe and secure places for children to learn, in the center and at home. Early Head Start focuses on the following topics:

- Safe and Healthy Environments
- Transportation Safety
- Environmental Protection Efforts
- Hygiene, Sanitation, and Universal Precautions
- Medication Administration
- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Domestic Violence
- Education Activities
- Policies and Procedures.⁵



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1 Walker, C. (2014, August 1). Early Head Start Participants, Programs, Families and Staff in 2013. Retrieved June 2, 2015, from <http://www.clasp.org/resources-and-publications/publication-1/EHSpreschool-PIR-2013-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

2 About Early Head Start. (n.d.). Retrieved June 3, 2015, from <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/ehsnrc/about-ehs>

3 Welcome to Early Head Start. (n.d.). Retrieved July 7, 2015.

4 Szilagyi, P. (2009). Oral Health in Children: A Pediatric Health Priority. Retrieved July 13, 2015.

5 Safety & Injury Prevention. (n.d.). Retrieved July 13, 2015.

6 Services for Children with Disabilities. (n.d.). Retrieved July 13, 2015.

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