

**The 2017 National Child Count of Children and  
Youth who are Deaf-Blind**



***NCDB***

***The National Center on Deaf-Blindness***

**October 2018**

## Table of Contents

The 2017 National Child Count of Children and Youth who are Deaf-Blind .....	1
Introduction .....	4
Data Elements in the National Deaf-Blind Child Count .....	5
Considerations for the Reader .....	6
Overall Population Demographics.....	7
State Child Count Totals .....	8
Age of Child .....	10
Race/Ethnicity .....	11
Gender .....	14
Documented Hearing and Vision Loss .....	15
Primary Classification of Vision Impairment .....	17
Cortical Visual Impairment .....	19
Corrective Lenses .....	20
Primary Classification of Hearing Impairment .....	22
Central Auditory Processing Disorder .....	25
Auditory Neuropathy .....	26
Cochlear Implant.....	27
Assistive Listening Devices .....	28
Additional Assistive Technology .....	30
Etiologies .....	31
Primary Identified Etiology .....	32
Etiology Detail: Hereditary Syndromes/Disorders .....	33
Etiology Detail: Prenatal/Congenital Complications .....	35
Etiology Detail: Postnatal/Non-Congenital Complications .....	36
Etiology Detail: Other .....	37
Additional Disabilities .....	38
Other (Additional) Disabilities .....	40
Part C Information .....	42
IDEA Part C Reported Category .....	42
Early Intervention Setting (Ages Birth through 2) .....	43
Part B Information .....	45
IDEA Part B Reported Category (Part 1 of 2) .....	46

## 2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

IDEA Part B Reported Category (Part 2 of 2) .....	48
Educational Setting: ECSE (3 to 5) Settings.....	50
Educational Setting: School Aged (6 to21) Settings .....	52
State Assessments .....	54
Educational Supports .....	56
Intervener Services .....	56
Living Setting .....	57
Living Setting (Part 1 of 2).....	58
Living Setting (Part 2 of 2).....	59
Exiting Information .....	60
Part C Exiting Status (Part 1 of 2).....	61
Part C Exiting Status (Part 2 of 2).....	62
Part B Exiting Status (Part 1 of 2).....	64
Part B Exiting Status (Part 2 of 2).....	65
References.....	66
Contact Information.....	67

An accessible alternative to this document can be found at:

<http://nationaldb.org/reports/national-child-count-2017>

The contents of this report were developed under a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, #H326T130013. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the US Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. Project Officer, Jo Ann McCann.



## Introduction

This, the 32<sup>ND</sup> annual National Child Count of Children and Youth Who Are Deaf-Blind, is the first and longest running registry and knowledge base of children who are deaf-blind in the world. Begun in 1986 on behalf of the U.S. Department of Education, it represents a thirty-plus year collaborative effort between the National Center on Deaf-Blindness (NCDB), its predecessors, and each state and multi-state deaf-blind project throughout the country, as well as projects funded in the Pacific Trust territories, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. Initially requested by the U.S. Department of Education as an examination of the discrepancy between the National Deaf-Blind Child Count and the Office of Special Education Programs' (OSEP) annual counts of children and students with disabilities being served under *IDEA* Part C or Part B, the child count has expanded over time to inform the work of a range of OSEP-funded deaf-blind projects during the ensuing years, including the current national, state, and multi-state technical assistance and dissemination projects.

The National Deaf-Blind Child Count has been collaboratively designed, implemented, and revised to serve as the common vehicle to meet federal grant requirements for both the State and Multi-State Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Projects and the National Deaf-Blind Technical Assistance Center, as well as serve as a common data collection and reporting mechanism for use across the country. Consistent with the priorities under which NCDB, its predecessors, and the state and multi-state deaf-blind projects are funded, this national child count is used to help identify national and state technical assistance needs for children and youth who are deaf-blind, their families, and the service providers and systems that serve them.

The National Deaf-Blind Child Count is conducted each year to supplement OSEP's Federal *IDEA* Part C and Part B child counts, **which include children as deaf-blind only when deaf-blindness is their single disability**. In contrast to OSEP's Part C and Part B child counts, the National Deaf-Blind Child Count data is collected for children whose disability is solely deaf-blindness, as well as those who are identified with deaf-blindness and also have additional disabilities. This is a critical distinction given that over 85% (86.6%) of the children and youth on the National Deaf-Blind Child Count have one or more additional disabilities. Consequently, a majority of children who are deaf-blind or have deaf-blind intervention needs are not identified as such on OSEP's *IDEA* Part C and Part B child counts.

Between December 1, 2016 and December 1, 2017, state and multi-state deaf-blind projects reported 10,950 children and youth were eligible to receive services. On December 1, 2017, state and multi-state deaf-blind projects reported that 10,435 children and youth were eligible to receive services. Of these, 10,000 were both eligible to receive deaf-blind project services *and* were being served through either Part C or Part B of *IDEA*. **Therefore, a total of 10,000 children and youth are included on the December 1, 2017 Deaf-Blind Child Count.**

Across the United States, 613 infants (birth-2) and 9,301 children and young adults (3-21) were identified and reported as deaf-blind by the state and multi-state deaf-blind

projects on the December 1, 2017 Deaf-Blind Child Count. An additional 86 students were reported by those projects, who by their respective state's legislation or regulation, continue to provide services through the end of the school year in which the student turns 22 years of age. These individuals make up the total of 10,000 infants, children, and young adults identified as deaf-blind by the state and multi-state deaf-blind projects. This figure represents a slight increase from the previous year.

In contrast, the U.S. Department of Education (2017a) reports that 1,278 students (3-21) were identified as deaf-blind on [OSEP's IDEA Part B "Snapshot" Child Count](#). Due to the non-categorical nature of Part C, no infants or toddlers are reported as deaf-blind as they are all reported as developmentally delayed or at-risk by their state Part C lead agencies (2017b). This discrepancy of more than 80% between Part B and Part C reporting of children and youth who are deaf-blind and the National Deaf-Blind Child Count is significant. State and multi-state deaf-blind project directors consistently indicate that most Part C lead agencies and State Education Agencies report their children and students with deaf-blindness as being developmentally delayed, multiply disabled, and/or visually impaired or hearing impaired, rather than identifying them as deaf-blind. Concerns about the under-identification of deaf-blindness and its resulting unique intervention requirements have been a consistent problem and one that often results in a lack of or delay in receiving appropriate intervention and instruction critical to children's early development (Herbster, 2015; Mueller, 2006; Purvis & Schalock, 2014). The opportunity for early identification, intervention, and provision of instructional services aimed at the unique needs of young children and students who are deaf-blind is a critical component that should not be lost.

In reviewing the child count data submitted over the years, it is notable that children who are deaf-blind are highly diverse. Clearly, children who are deaf-blind are as varied as the number reported, and the nature and extent of deaf-blindness in children is often misunderstood (Malloy & Killoran, 2007; McCormick, 2015; Schalock, 2017). These children represent one of the lowest incidence yet most diverse group of learners receiving early intervention and special education services. They are an extremely heterogeneous group whose sensory losses are often accompanied by additional physical or cognitive disabilities, complex medical needs, and/or behavior challenges.

## **Data Elements in the National Deaf-Blind Child Count**

Throughout the history of the child count, NCDB and its predecessors have continuously revised the child count language and reporting elements to a) remain current with *IDEA* Section 618 Part C and Part B data requirements, b) ease the data collection burden of the projects, and c) increase process and cost efficiencies.

Current data elements target both *IDEA* Section 618 requirements and the collection of information to guide state-specific and national technical assistance. Existing data elements have been broken out into specific Part B and Part C elements using Section 618 language. Reported data elements that are consistent with the *IDEA* mandated child counts include:

## 2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

- Race/Ethnicity
- Part B and C Category Codes
- Early Intervention Setting (Birth through 2)
- Educational Setting (3-5 and 6-21)
- Participation in Statewide Assessments
- Part C Exiting Status (Birth through 2)
- Part B Exiting Status (3-21)

Data elements have also been included to assist in developing state and national technical assistance initiatives (e.g., collection of demographic and needs assessment information). These include:

- Gender
- Etiology
- Documented Vision Loss
- Cortical Vision Impairment
- Documented Hearing Loss
- Central Auditory Processing Disorder
- Auditory Neuropathy
- Cochlear Implants
- Other Impairments or Conditions
- Living Setting
- Intervener Services
- Use of Corrective Lenses, Listening Devices, and/or Assistive Technology

## Considerations for the Reader

When reading the information that follows, the reader should note that:

- Although the *IDEA* definition is used as the common definition of deaf-blindness, each state or multi-state deaf-blind project has the discretion of establishing criteria for their own project services. This definition was modified for birth –2 to reflect Part C Early Intervention program services and infant-toddler outcomes.
- The National Deaf-Blind Child Count is collected in a timeline similar to *IDEA* Section 618 data requirements. A point-in-time “snap shot” is used to reflect those infants, young children, and students identified and eligible for services from state and multi-state deaf-blind projects on December 1 of each year. Thus, in many instances, projects serve more infants, young children, and students over the course of the year than are reported on December 1.
- Where cross-over exists, the language and reporting elements used in the National Deaf-Blind ChildCount are consistent with those found in Section 618 of *IDEA*.

- The National Deaf-Blind Child Count data presented are based on aggregate data reported by each state and multi-state deaf-blind project. While the aggregated counts provide a national perspective, there is substantial variability in the individual state project data reports.

## Overall Population Demographics

The total December 1, 2017 Deaf-Blind “Snap Shot” count increased to 10,000; a gain of 365 from 2016. Overall, the total number of children and youth served during the year also increased from 10,749 to 10,950.

While 1,163 children and youth exited from state and multi-state project eligibility, a total of 1,380 were added through child find and referral efforts. This indicates an almost 25% turnover in the child counts of the states.

Newly identified children and youth spanned the full age range of birth through 21. Nearly half (48.8%) were birth through 5 years of age. Conversely, over half (55.4%) of the children and youth exiting the child count were ages 18 and over. Other than age, these newly identified individuals have demographics that are consistent with the overall population of children and youth who are deaf-blind.

The distribution of children/youth across age groups has remained relatively stable over the past five years. Since 2013, the number of children from birth to 2 years of age increased from 552 to 613 in 2017. Since 2013 the number of children aged 3 to 5 has increased only slightly, from 1,197 in 2013 to 1,222 in 2017. The number of children and youth aged 6 to 17 increased from 6,116 to 6,545. The number of those 18 years of age and older also increased from 1,561 to 1,621.

The overall distribution of children and youth by race and ethnicity continues to slowly evolve, reflecting broader population changes. The racial/ethnic makeup of the children and youth who are deaf-blind has remained fairly consistent over the past 5 years. There have been slight changes, but nothing significant. For example, the percentage of the population identified as white decreased from 54.4% to 53.6%. The percentage of the population identified as black or African American dipped slightly from 14.4% to 14.3%. The percentage identified as Latino or Hispanic showed a similar small dip from 20.4% to 19.6%. All of the other categories have experienced small increases.

The racial/ethnic makeup of the children and youth on the National Deaf-Blind Child Count mirrors fairly well the overall US population. Generally, children and youth who are white are slightly under-represented, while children and youth who are Black/African American or Latino/Hispanic are slightly over represented.

The distribution of children and youth by gender has remained very stable over time, with about 54% of children and youth being male and 46% female.

The apparent under-identification and referral to state and multi-state deaf-blind programs of very young infants and children remains an important issue. Infants and toddlers benefit greatly from having access to expertise in deaf-blindness. They require appropriate services that address the impacts of dual sensory impairments. Further, parents and families of these infants and toddlers can benefit from supports established within states. Without such early identification and referral to state and multi-state deaf-blind programs, access to

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

needed services and supports is compromised.

Trends demonstrate that what has historically been one of the lowest incidence, yet most heterogeneous populations, continues to become even more so. As our nation’s population becomes more diverse ethnically, racially, culturally, and even linguistically, our national, state, and local systems need to continue to adapt to provide effective services to these children and youth and their families.

## State Child Count Totals

State	Total Number Served by State During Year	Number Eligible to Receive Project Services on 12-1-2017 Regardless of Part C or Part B Status	12-1-17 Snap Shot: Number on Child Count <sup>(1)</sup>
Alabama	198	196	188
Alaska	26	23	23
Arizona	236	216	211
Arkansas	215	203	183
California	1105	1085	1005
Colorado	160	142	141
Connecticut	60	60	57
Delaware	67	67	67
District of Columbia	20	20	20
Florida	595	595	574
Georgia	312	290	274
Hawaii	65	63	60
Idaho	58	57	56
Illinois	382	355	338
Indiana	236	222	203
Iowa	91	88	86
Kansas	107	100	100
Kentucky	143	143	125
Louisiana	105	101	100
Maine	47	43	38
Maryland	188	187	179
Massachusetts	262	262	245
Michigan	360	352	328
Minnesota	407	374	374
Mississippi	71	67	67
Missouri	282	227	223
Montana	53	48	48
Nebraska	106	105	101
Nevada	131	113	106
New Hampshire	81	78	76
New Jersey	215	215	212



2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

<b>State</b>	<b>Total Number Served by State During Year</b>	<b>Number Eligible to Receive Project Services on 12-1-2017 Regardless of Part C or Part B Status</b>	<b>12-1-17 Snap Shot: Number on Child Count <sup>(1)</sup></b>
New Mexico	136	132	128
New York	382	357	357
North Carolina	297	280	280
North Dakota	33	33	31
Ohio	448	419	397
Oklahoma	187	171	165
Oregon	94	92	92
Pacific Basin	61	58	57
Pennsylvania	602	591	576
Puerto Rico	45	31	30
Rhode Island	44	44	38
South Carolina	142	137	137
South Dakota	34	32	32
Tennessee	302	265	252
Texas	736	736	718
Utah	150	134	128
Vermont	33	28	29
Virgin Islands	23	23	20
Virginia	214	211	195
Washington	289	267	244
West Virginia	102	102	99
Wisconsin	170	153	148
Wyoming	42	42	39
<b>National Total</b>	<b>10950</b>	<b>10435</b>	<b>10000</b>

(1) December 1 snap shot based on children/youth in Part C or Part B **and** eligible for project services.

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

**Age of Child**

<b>State</b>	<b>0 thru 2</b>	<b>3 thru 5</b>	<b>6 thru 11</b>	<b>12 thru 17</b>	<b>18 thru 21</b>	<b>Over 21</b>	<b>Unknown/ Missing</b>	<b>State Total</b>
Alabama	8	19	48	71	38	4	0	188
Alaska	1	3	9	10	0	0	0	23
Arizona	13	15	70	86	27	0	0	211
Arkansas	4	14	76	76	13	0	0	183
California	51	87	346	347	164	10	0	1005
Colorado	10	27	38	50	16	0	0	141
Connecticut	2	8	19	18	10	0	0	57
Delaware	0	15	22	20	10	0	0	67
District of Columbia	0	4	9	4	3	0	0	20
Florida	13	55	199	189	117	1	0	574
Georgia	19	40	89	96	30	0	0	274
Hawaii	2	8	25	17	8	0	0	60
Idaho	2	7	24	16	7	0	0	56
Illinois	11	29	100	123	75	0	0	338
Indiana	4	17	61	67	54	0	0	203
Iowa	6	13	26	28	13	0	0	86
Kansas	14	14	43	24	5	0	0	100
Kentucky	11	9	37	43	25	0	0	125
Louisiana	8	10	17	42	21	0	2	100
Maine	3	7	12	11	5	0	0	38
Maryland	5	18	66	64	25	0	1	179
Massachusetts	12	26	77	84	46	0	0	245
Michigan	8	44	77	113	40	46	0	328
Minnesota	23	39	133	129	50	0	0	374
Mississippi	6	14	21	18	7	1	0	67
Missouri	29	36	64	71	23	0	0	223
Montana	4	6	20	14	4	0	0	48
Nebraska	4	9	35	32	21	0	0	101
Nevada	16	13	49	19	9	0	0	106
New Hampshire	3	17	25	18	13	0	0	76
New Jersey	8	29	72	56	47	0	0	212

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	0 thru 2	3 thru 5	6 thru 11	12 thru 17	18 thru 21	Over 21	Unknown/ Missing	State Total
New Mexico	9	24	47	35	13	0	0	128
New York	10	27	108	128	77	7	0	357
North Carolina	17	28	94	104	37	0	0	280
North Dakota	2	6	11	10	2	0	0	31
Ohio	6	26	114	156	95	0	0	397
Oklahoma	10	25	55	45	30	0	0	165
Oregon	10	16	21	29	16	0	0	92
Pacific Basin	3	4	15	17	8	0	10	57
Pennsylvania	111	119	171	125	50	0	0	576
Puerto Rico	2	0	7	14	7	0	0	30
Rhode Island	2	4	4	21	7	0	0	38
South Carolina	14	20	42	42	19	0	0	137
South Dakota	2	3	7	14	6	0	0	32
Tennessee	27	48	77	63	34	3	0	252
Texas	37	87	257	245	91	1	0	718
Utah	11	27	37	32	21	0	0	128
Vermont	3	9	6	8	3	0	0	29
Virgin Islands	0	4	5	8	3	0	0	20
Virginia	7	25	54	80	29	0	0	195
Washington	11	36	65	97	35	0	0	244
West Virginia	3	5	42	38	11	0	0	99
Wisconsin	13	22	49	52	12	0	0	148
Wyoming	3	5	13	16	2	0	0	39
<b>National Total</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>1222</b>	<b>3210</b>	<b>3335</b>	<b>1534</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10000</b>

Race/Ethnicity

State	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Hispanic/ Latino	White	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	Two or More Races	Unknown/ Missing	State Total
Alabama	4	6	49	12	110	1	2	4	188
Alaska	10	2	0	3	6	0	0	2	23
Arizona	14	2	12	95	88	0	0	0	211
Arkansas	1	2	37	17	117	0	9	0	183

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Hispanic/Latino	White	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	Two or More Races	Unknown/Missing	State Total
California	9	87	46	482	252	18	37	74	1005
Colorado	2	9	9	37	78	1	5	0	141
Connecticut	0	0	12	10	35	0	0	0	57
Delaware	3	3	16	17	28	0	0	0	67
District of Columbia	0	0	13	1	5	1	0	0	20
Florida	1	27	126	166	231	2	20	1	574
Georgia	1	8	87	40	126	0	12	0	274
Hawaii	0	23	2	1	6	17	3	0	60
Idaho	2	1	3	6	42	0	2	0	56
Illinois	0	22	69	71	172	0	4	0	338
Indiana	2	5	22	19	148	0	7	0	203
Iowa	0	3	5	8	66	0	4	0	86
Kansas	2	5	5	11	70	1	6	0	100
Kentucky	0	1	15	5	102	0	2	0	125
Louisiana	1	0	18	1	52	0	0	28	100
Maine	1	0	1	0	36	0	0	0	38
Maryland	0	8	50	26	84	7	0	4	179
Massachusetts	2	14	10	46	162	1	10	0	245
Michigan	2	18	47	19	231	0	11	0	328
Minnesota	13	30	44	30	243	1	13	0	374
Mississippi	0	0	23	3	40	0	1	0	67
Missouri	2	6	29	9	166	1	9	1	223
Montana	6	0	1	2	38	1	0	0	48
Nebraska	2	3	8	15	73	0	0	0	101
Nevada	1	3	15	33	38	4	12	0	106
New Hampshire	2	2	2	6	63	0	1	0	76
New Jersey	0	12	28	59	108	0	5	0	212
New Mexico	19	2	1	66	33	0	7	0	128
New York	3	33	47	84	146	0	1	43	357
North Carolina	3	8	94	25	131	0	17	2	280
North Dakota	4	2	2	2	21	0	0	0	31
Ohio	2	5	81	10	290	2	7	0	397
Oklahoma	30	3	17	18	97	0	0	0	165
Oregon	1	1	1	17	67	1	4	0	92

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian	Black or African American	Hispanic/Latino	White	Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	Two or More Races	Unknown/Missing	State Total
Pacific Basin	0	0	0	0	0	56	1	0	57
Pennsylvania	4	28	86	37	394	0	27	0	576
Puerto Rico	0	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	30
Rhode Island	1	3	6	8	20	0	0	0	38
South Carolina	1	3	49	7	74	0	0	3	137
South Dakota	7	0	0	0	25	0	0	0	32
Tennessee	0	7	47	23	165	0	9	1	252
Texas	6	23	94	281	297	2	15	0	718
Utah	2	2	2	17	92	3	10	0	128
Vermont	0	1	1	1	24	0	2	0	29
Virgin Islands	0	0	16	2	2	0	0	0	20
Virginia	2	8	43	18	115	0	0	9	195
Washington	6	10	14	43	137	5	20	9	244
West Virginia	0	0	4	0	91	0	0	4	99
Wisconsin	3	5	16	10	102	0	5	7	148
Wyoming	3	0	1	7	27	0	1	0	39
<b>National Total</b>	180	446	1426	1956	5366	125	301	192	10000

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

## Gender

State	Male	Female	Unknown/ Missing	State Total
Alabama	75	107	6	188
Alaska	12	11	0	23
Arizona	120	91	0	211
Arkansas	101	82	0	183
California	529	456	20	1005
Colorado	85	56	0	141
Connecticut	35	22	0	57
Delaware	40	27	0	67
District of Columbia	8	11	1	20
Florida	301	270	3	574
Georgia	136	137	1	274
Hawaii	27	27	6	60
Idaho	28	28	0	56
Illinois	172	166	0	338
Indiana	111	92	0	203
Iowa	44	42	0	86
Kansas	60	40	0	100
Kentucky	66	59	0	125
Louisiana	50	42	8	100
Maine	28	10	0	38
Maryland	97	82	0	179
Massachusetts	135	110	0	245
Michigan	190	138	0	328
Minnesota	181	193	0	374
Mississippi	34	33	0	67
Missouri	133	89	1	223
Montana	27	21	0	48
Nebraska	58	43	0	101
Nevada	59	47	0	106
New Hampshire	45	31	0	76
New Jersey	125	87	0	212
New Mexico	61	67	0	128
New York	195	162	0	357
North Carolina	156	124	0	280
North Dakota	16	15	0	31
Ohio	227	170	0	397
Oklahoma	82	83	0	165
Oregon	56	36	0	92
Pacific Basin	35	20	2	57
Pennsylvania	319	257	0	576
Puerto Rico	15	15	0	30
Rhode Island	19	19	0	38
South Carolina	79	58	0	137
South Dakota	15	16	1	32
Tennessee	132	120	0	252
Texas	396	322	0	718
Utah	62	66	0	128

## 2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	Male	Female	Unknown/ Missing	State Total
Vermont	15	14	0	29
Virgin Islands	9	11	0	20
Virginia	103	92	0	195
Washington	111	122	11	244
West Virginia	58	41	0	99
Wisconsin	90	58	0	148
Wyoming	22	17	0	39
<b>National Total</b>	<b>5385</b>	<b>4555</b>	<b>60</b>	<b>10000</b>

## Documented Hearing and Vision Loss

The overall distribution of degree of vision loss has remained relatively consistent over time. A total of 7,853 or just under 80% of the children and youth were identified as having low vision, being legally blind, or having a documented functional vision loss in 2017. A total of 497, about 5% of the population, is totally blind. These distributions have remained fairly consistent over the past five years, fluctuating 1-3% during this time period. There has been a slight increase in the percentage of children and youth with low vision and a documented functional vision loss. The percentage of children who are legally blind has declined.

The number of children and youth who have an identified cortical vision impairment has grown slightly over the past five years from 2,816 in 2013 to 2,906 in 2017 and represents about 30% of the population.

The documented degree of hearing loss is more evenly distributed from mild to profound. A total of 1,999 children and youth have a profound hearing loss and make up the largest group at nearly 20%. The number of children with a documented functional hearing loss (1,254) is about equal to the number of children and youth with a mild hearing loss (1,332). These distributions have remained very consistent over the past five years, fluctuating only 1-2%. The percentage of children/youth identified as needing further hearing testing has fluctuated from 8.3% to 7.2% over the past five years.

Relatively few children and youth have been identified as having a central auditory processing disorder (549) or auditory neuropathy (531). In both cases these numbers represent less than 6% of the population.

The number of children identified as having received cochlear implants has increased from 914 in 2013 (9.7%) to 1,098 in 2017 (11.0%). This increase is true for all ages, from infants to young adults.

In 2017, less than half of the children and youth made use of corrective lenses (42.3%), assistive listening devices (48.1%), or additional assistive technology (48.8%). While there has been a significant increase over the past five years in the percentage of children and youth with corrective lenses from 37.8% to 42.3% and assistive listening devices from 43.6% to 48.4%, there has been a small decrease in the use of other assistive technologies from 45.0% to 44.0%.

The broad range and combinations of vision and hearing loss of the children and youth on the National Deaf-Blind Child Count provide evidence of the heterogeneous nature of this population and their needs. Only about 1% of the population has a profound hearing loss and is totally blind. The other 99% have some residual hearing or vision.

While the number of children and youth needing further vision and or hearing testing has decreased over time, there is still a need for increased access to pediatric audiologists and optometrists. The number of children and youth who have been identified as having a cortical vision impairment (30%) indicate continued work in this area is crucial.

The number of children/youth with cochlear implants has continued to grow over the past five years. This increase may require significant program development within the Deaf-Blind Network to provide appropriate supports for this growing population.

Assistive technology plays an important place in the lives of children and youth who are deaf-blind especially those with more intensive support needs. Overall, the percentage of children and youth that use of assistive technologies has remained fairly constant over the past five years at about 45%. However, only about 25% of children and youth with no additional disabilities are reported to use additional assistive technologies while over 50% of children with four or more additional disabilities use additional assistive technologies.



2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

**Primary Classification of Vision Impairment**

State	Low Vision	Legally Blind	Light Perception Only	Totally Blind	Diagnosed Progressive Vision Loss	Further Testing Needed (1 year only)	Documented Functional Vision Loss	State Total
Alabama	64	49	7	8	11	7	42	188
Alaska	7	4	1	1	3	2	5	23
Arizona	52	28	6	3	7	1	114	211
Arkansas	67	34	13	12	5	6	46	183
California	294	264	43	56	27	167	154	1005
Colorado	77	37	8	6	10	3	0	141
Connecticut	12	31	4	4	2	2	2	57
Delaware	20	10	1	0	2	3	31	67
District of Columbia	3	0	0	0	1	2	14	20
Florida	242	100	38	24	24	13	133	574
Georgia	71	90	19	19	11	8	56	274
Hawaii	7	8	3	4	5	6	27	60
Idaho	15	10	4	2	5	5	15	56
Illinois	113	70	32	17	20	8	78	338
Indiana	72	40	18	11	5	3	54	203
Iowa	29	21	8	4	6	2	16	86
Kansas	21	29	4	3	5	8	30	100
Kentucky	51	40	23	4	1	0	6	125
Louisiana	22	24	2	7	7	27	11	100
Maine	20	5	0	2	1	3	7	38
Maryland	34	26	6	3	5	22	83	179
Massachusetts	89	73	11	8	12	25	27	245
Michigan	97	94	12	27	16	8	74	328
Minnesota	182	62	9	12	30	7	72	374
Mississippi	19	18	12	5	1	4	8	67
Missouri	57	47	15	9	14	2	79	223

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	Low Vision	Legally Blind	Light Perception Only	Totally Blind	Diagnosed Progressive Vision Loss	Further Testing Needed (1 year only)	Documented Functional Vision Loss	State Total
Montana	12	14	2	4	6	3	7	48
Nebraska	41	35	5	3	7	1	9	101
Nevada	18	23	9	5	5	12	34	106
New Hampshire	39	13	0	1	1	8	14	76
New Jersey	100	53	21	9	7	8	14	212
New Mexico	52	17	6	7	3	1	42	128
New York	54	123	23	22	6	97	32	357
North Carolina	67	79	22	15	5	6	86	280
North Dakota	13	3	1	0	3	0	11	31
Ohio	94	93	25	32	13	39	101	397
Oklahoma	61	37	14	9	3	10	31	165
Oregon	35	17	3	4	9	3	21	92
Pacific Basin	10	3	4	8	3	13	16	57
Pennsylvania	160	129	8	15	22	97	145	576
Puerto Rico	9	5	6	6	2	0	2	30
Rhode Island	14	13	3	0	1	1	6	38
South Carolina	35	29	5	4	5	6	53	137
South Dakota	6	5	1	4	1	0	15	32
Tennessee	100	49	20	15	5	8	55	252
Texas	246	319	25	39	4	10	75	718
Utah	69	27	6	7	6	2	11	128
Vermont	7	5	2	1	1	0	13	29
Virgin Islands	2	5	0	0	0	0	13	20
Virginia	62	31	10	8	15	7	62	195
Washington	74	44	16	16	12	9	73	244
West Virginia	46	17	6	3	7	2	18	99
Wisconsin	28	38	9	9	9	7	48	148
Wyoming	13	9	2	0	2	4	9	39
<b>National Total</b>	<b>3204</b>	<b>2449</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>399</b>	<b>698</b>	<b>2200</b>	<b>10000</b>

## Cortical Visual Impairment

State	Yes	No	Unknown/Missing	State Total
Alabama	6	181	1	188
Alaska	9	13	1	23
Arizona	132	76	3	211
Arkansas	63	105	15	183
California	208	468	329	1005
Colorado	39	98	4	141
Connecticut	16	41	0	57
Delaware	35	31	1	67
District of Columbia	7	13	0	20
Florida	79	335	160	574
Georgia	86	159	29	274
Hawaii	16	36	8	60
Idaho	27	19	10	56
Illinois	109	202	27	338
Indiana	30	120	53	203
Iowa	20	66	0	86
Kansas	64	24	12	100
Kentucky	67	58	0	125
Louisiana	17	40	43	100
Maine	9	26	3	38
Maryland	54	125	0	179
Massachusetts	58	173	14	245
Michigan	91	237	0	328
Minnesota	109	264	1	374
Mississippi	18	25	24	67
Missouri	64	159	0	223
Montana	20	23	5	48
Nebraska	17	60	24	101
Nevada	24	35	47	106
New Hampshire	24	52	0	76
New Jersey	76	116	20	212
New Mexico	70	25	33	128
New York	44	267	46	357
North Carolina	117	126	37	280
North Dakota	7	23	1	31
Ohio	121	128	148	397
Oklahoma	61	84	20	165
Oregon	32	37	23	92
Pacific Basin	5	14	38	57
Pennsylvania	143	433	0	576
Puerto Rico	13	17	0	30
Rhode Island	17	18	3	38
South Carolina	45	68	24	137
South Dakota	9	23	0	32
Tennessee	84	167	1	252
Texas	226	419	73	718

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	Yes	No	Unknown/Missing	State Total
Utah	47	72	9	128
Vermont	15	9	5	29
Virgin Islands	1	4	15	20
Virginia	49	146	0	195
Washington	87	87	70	244
West Virginia	50	49	0	99
Wisconsin	59	86	3	148
Wyoming	10	15	14	39
<b>National Total</b>	<b>2906</b>	<b>5697</b>	<b>1397</b>	<b>10000</b>

## Corrective Lenses

State	Yes	No	Unknown/Missing	State Total
Alabama	95	92	1	188
Alaska	10	9	4	23
Arizona	66	103	42	211
Arkansas	81	97	5	183
California	431	332	242	1005
Colorado	74	63	4	141
Connecticut	22	25	10	57
Delaware	32	28	7	67
District of Columbia	8	8	4	20
Florida	176	137	261	574
Georgia	134	135	5	274
Hawaii	12	34	14	60
Idaho	34	22	0	56
Illinois	181	145	12	338
Indiana	95	75	33	203
Iowa	33	40	13	86
Kansas	52	43	5	100
Kentucky	53	72	0	125
Louisiana	27	29	44	100
Maine	12	14	12	38
Maryland	83	83	13	179
Massachusetts	105	55	85	245
Michigan	160	168	0	328
Minnesota	198	157	19	374
Mississippi	26	34	7	67
Missouri	95	128	0	223
Montana	23	25	0	48
Nebraska	52	47	2	101
Nevada	52	52	2	106
New Hampshire	34	19	23	76
New Jersey	64	146	2	212
New Mexico	69	45	14	128
New York	66	44	247	357
North Carolina	116	156	8	280

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

<b>State</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Unknown/Missing</b>	<b>State Total</b>
North Dakota	18	13	0	31
Ohio	141	126	130	397
Oklahoma	70	79	16	165
Oregon	47	41	4	92
Pacific Basin	1	46	10	57
Pennsylvania	248	328	0	576
Puerto Rico	10	20	0	30
Rhode Island	16	20	2	38
South Carolina	56	61	20	137
South Dakota	16	15	1	32
Tennessee	83	138	31	252
Texas	340	0	378	718
Utah	67	61	0	128
Vermont	11	17	1	29
Virgin Islands	0	4	16	20
Virginia	84	78	33	195
Washington	114	120	10	244
West Virginia	54	37	8	99
Wisconsin	67	74	7	148
Wyoming	20	19	0	39
<b>National Total</b>	<b>4234</b>	<b>3959</b>	<b>1807</b>	<b>10000</b>

### Primary Classification of Hearing Impairment

State	Mild	Moderate	Moderately Severe	Severe	Profound	Diagnosed Progressive Loss	Further Testing Needed (1 year only)	Documented Functional Hearing Loss	State Total
Alabama	22	32	22	20	47	3	4	38	188
Alaska	0	4	7	1	3	1	5	2	23
Arizona	23	45	44	22	63	0	1	13	211
Arkansas	17	27	12	15	21	3	12	76	183
California	83	142	164	109	223	4	175	105	1005
Colorado	25	43	25	16	30	1	1	0	141
Connecticut	13	10	8	2	20	0	4	0	57
Delaware	9	19	13	5	8	0	4	9	67
District of Columbia	0	5	3	1	2	0	5	4	20
Florida	104	99	77	58	125	1	12	98	574
Georgia	51	62	52	32	57	0	7	13	274
Hawaii	5	6	5	2	9	1	10	22	60
Idaho	14	11	11	6	9	0	1	4	56
Illinois	105	61	28	39	55	6	8	36	338
Indiana	32	43	30	18	35	1	3	41	203
Iowa	11	21	10	14	19	0	7	4	86
Kansas	9	22	15	6	19	2	6	21	100
Kentucky	23	20	22	12	25	0	0	23	125
Louisiana	14	11	13	12	14	1	26	9	100
Maine	5	7	11	1	4	0	6	4	38
Maryland	27	31	26	16	40	1	13	25	179
Massachusetts	44	46	41	21	37	5	34	17	245
Michigan	40	55	48	38	66	5	5	71	328
Minnesota	46	106	56	44	80	9	4	29	374
Mississippi	10	7	11	10	16	1	7	5	67

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	Mild	Moderate	Moderately Severe	Severe	Profound	Diagnosed Progressive Loss	Further Testing Needed (1 year only)	Documented Functional Hearing Loss	State Total
Missouri	26	51	46	20	36	4	7	33	223
Montana	8	7	6	1	5	3	12	6	48
Nebraska	8	23	19	19	28	0	0	4	101
Nevada	10	18	10	12	19	1	22	14	106
New Hampshire	15	15	6	7	6	0	19	8	76
New Jersey	22	62	38	26	43	0	4	17	212
New Mexico	19	36	18	15	25	3	4	8	128
New York	27	65	55	28	38	29	64	51	357
North Carolina	38	53	45	24	71	0	11	38	280
North Dakota	3	7	8	2	7	1	0	3	31
Ohio	37	35	28	21	60	4	131	81	397
Oklahoma	15	22	31	20	37	1	11	28	165
Oregon	12	31	19	13	13	0	2	2	92
Pacific Basin	10	5	2	2	9	0	13	16	57
Pennsylvania	83	108	74	53	87	7	98	66	576
Puerto Rico	5	4	5	4	8	1	0	3	30
Rhode Island	3	8	7	4	5	0	5	6	38
South Carolina	20	26	27	17	24	1	4	18	137
South Dakota	5	6	5	0	10	0	1	5	32
Tennessee	35	30	46	33	51	7	22	28	252
Texas	76	177	124	119	182	0	13	27	718
Utah	16	34	30	10	29	2	3	4	128
Vermont	7	7	1	2	9	1	1	1	29
Virgin Islands	2	3	0	0	2	0	0	13	20
Virginia	30	43	27	22	46	4	6	17	195
Washington	25	48	33	27	71	3	9	28	244
West Virginia	23	23	13	5	6	2	6	21	99
Wisconsin	14	31	20	9	32	2	6	34	148

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	Mild	Moderate	Moderately Severe	Severe	Profound	Diagnosed Progressive Loss	Further Testing Needed (1 year only)	Documented Functional Hearing Loss	State Total
Wyoming	6	4	7	1	13	0	3	5	39
<b>National Total</b>	1332	1917	1504	1036	1999	121	837	1254	10000



## Central Auditory Processing Disorder

State	Yes	No	Unknown/ Missing	State Total
Alabama	1	180	7	188
Alaska	0	16	7	23
Arizona	3	189	19	211
Arkansas	3	67	113	183
California	71	361	573	1005
Colorado	1	120	20	141
Connecticut	2	30	25	57
Delaware	0	35	32	67
District of Columbia	1	10	9	20
Florida	19	311	244	574
Georgia	19	202	53	274
Hawaii	1	40	19	60
Idaho	17	27	12	56
Illinois	3	267	68	338
Indiana	2	103	98	203
Iowa	1	45	40	86
Kansas	15	47	38	100
Kentucky	33	92	0	125
Louisiana	9	41	50	100
Maine	1	13	24	38
Maryland	2	142	35	179
Massachusetts	5	70	170	245
Michigan	26	302	0	328
Minnesota	6	268	100	374
Mississippi	3	45	19	67
Missouri	13	209	1	223
Montana	15	23	10	48
Nebraska	6	72	23	101
Nevada	4	38	64	106
New Hampshire	7	26	43	76
New Jersey	5	138	69	212
New Mexico	6	70	52	128
New York	13	151	193	357
North Carolina	29	189	62	280
North Dakota	1	29	1	31
Ohio	68	135	194	397
Oklahoma	9	111	45	165
Oregon	2	60	30	92
Pacific Basin	0	20	37	57
Pennsylvania	25	551	0	576
Puerto Rico	13	17	0	30
Rhode Island	0	30	8	38
South Carolina	2	38	97	137
South Dakota	0	32	0	32
Tennessee	16	223	13	252

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	Yes	No	Unknown/ Missing	State Total
Texas	22	0	696	718
Utah	0	119	9	128
Vermont	1	17	11	29
Virgin Islands	0	4	16	20
Virginia	5	84	106	195
Washington	22	118	104	244
West Virginia	5	52	42	99
Wisconsin	15	78	55	148
Wyoming	1	21	17	39
<b>National Total</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>5678</b>	<b>3773</b>	<b>10000</b>

### Auditory Neuropathy

State	Yes	No	Unknown/ Missing	State Total
Alabama	5	176	7	188
Alaska	2	14	7	23
Arizona	2	193	16	211
Arkansas	6	102	75	183
California	35	341	629	1005
Colorado	5	124	12	141
Connecticut	6	27	24	57
Delaware	7	31	29	67
District of Columbia	1	11	8	20
Florida	25	284	265	574
Georgia	25	193	56	274
Hawaii	3	16	41	60
Idaho	4	35	17	56
Illinois	15	267	56	338
Indiana	5	73	125	203
Iowa	1	35	50	86
Kansas	10	55	35	100
Kentucky	0	125	0	125
Louisiana	7	43	50	100
Maine	1	19	18	38
Maryland	12	136	31	179
Massachusetts	6	107	132	245
Michigan	15	313	0	328
Minnesota	8	81	285	374
Mississippi	0	38	29	67
Missouri	15	206	2	223
Montana	5	33	10	48
Nebraska	6	71	24	101
Nevada	4	43	59	106
New Hampshire	5	28	43	76
New Jersey	20	125	67	212

## 2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	Yes	No	Unknown/ Missing	State Total
New Mexico	7	67	54	128
New York	18	83	256	357
North Carolina	24	183	73	280
North Dakota	0	30	1	31
Ohio	70	133	194	397
Oklahoma	15	105	45	165
Oregon	5	62	25	92
Pacific Basin	3	16	38	57
Pennsylvania	30	546	0	576
Puerto Rico	0	29	1	30
Rhode Island	2	34	2	38
South Carolina	6	70	61	137
South Dakota	1	31	0	32
Tennessee	10	215	27	252
Texas	32	0	686	718
Utah	5	110	13	128
Vermont	0	27	2	29
Virgin Islands	1	2	17	20
Virginia	11	88	96	195
Washington	13	114	117	244
West Virginia	5	53	41	99
Wisconsin	11	75	62	148
Wyoming	1	19	19	39
<b>National Total</b>	<b>531</b>	<b>5437</b>	<b>4032</b>	<b>10000</b>

## Cochlear Implant

State	Yes	No	Unknown/Missing	State Total
Alabama	23	162	3	188
Alaska	2	15	6	23
Arizona	22	186	3	211
Arkansas	6	166	11	183
California	66	659	280	1005
Colorado	15	126	0	141
Connecticut	9	36	12	57
Delaware	1	34	32	67
District of Columbia	2	9	9	20
Florida	43	375	156	574
Georgia	26	245	3	274
Hawaii	4	48	8	60
Idaho	7	47	2	56
Illinois	48	279	11	338
Indiana	28	160	15	203
Iowa	18	63	5	86
Kansas	17	82	1	100

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	Yes	No	Unknown/Missing	State Total
Kentucky	17	108	0	125
Louisiana	16	47	37	100
Maine	3	22	13	38
Maryland	24	136	19	179
Massachusetts	12	111	122	245
Michigan	43	285	0	328
Minnesota	45	324	5	374
Mississippi	6	45	16	67
Missouri	26	192	5	223
Montana	5	42	1	48
Nebraska	13	88	0	101
Nevada	11	89	6	106
New Hampshire	0	41	35	76
New Jersey	22	187	3	212
New Mexico	4	104	20	128
New York	47	117	193	357
North Carolina	43	230	7	280
North Dakota	6	25	0	31
Ohio	55	236	106	397
Oklahoma	24	137	4	165
Oregon	8	73	11	92
Pacific Basin	0	53	4	57
Pennsylvania	58	518	0	576
Puerto Rico	0	30	0	30
Rhode Island	1	37	0	38
South Carolina	12	97	28	137
South Dakota	4	28	0	32
Tennessee	34	214	4	252
Texas	126	0	592	718
Utah	19	108	1	128
Vermont	3	26	0	29
Virgin Islands	1	7	12	20
Virginia	23	123	49	195
Washington	32	197	15	244
West Virginia	1	78	20	99
Wisconsin	14	116	18	148
Wyoming	3	35	1	39
<b>National Total</b>	<b>1098</b>	<b>6998</b>	<b>1904</b>	<b>10000</b>

## Assistive Listening Devices

State	Yes	No	Unknown/Missing	State Total
Alabama	79	108	1	188
Alaska	17	2	4	23
Arizona	91	77	43	211
Arkansas	57	120	6	183

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	Yes	No	Unknown/Missing	State Total
California	455	255	295	1005
Colorado	107	33	1	141
Connecticut	33	16	8	57
Delaware	37	23	7	67
District of Columbia	9	7	4	20
Florida	204	106	264	574
Georgia	173	100	1	274
Hawaii	14	31	15	60
Idaho	20	35	1	56
Illinois	226	99	13	338
Indiana	91	75	37	203
Iowa	49	24	13	86
Kansas	44	53	3	100
Kentucky	74	51	0	125
Louisiana	25	30	45	100
Maine	16	7	15	38
Maryland	105	67	7	179
Massachusetts	93	44	108	245
Michigan	143	185	0	328
Minnesota	231	128	15	374
Mississippi	31	32	4	67
Missouri	136	87	0	223
Montana	20	26	2	48
Nebraska	65	35	1	101
Nevada	50	55	1	106
New Hampshire	35	18	23	76
New Jersey	101	105	6	212
New Mexico	64	40	24	128
New York	89	29	239	357
North Carolina	127	141	12	280
North Dakota	23	8	0	31
Ohio	128	127	142	397
Oklahoma	88	60	17	165
Oregon	59	27	6	92
Pacific Basin	6	42	9	57
Pennsylvania	316	260	0	576
Puerto Rico	11	19	0	30
Rhode Island	24	14	0	38
South Carolina	76	48	13	137
South Dakota	15	15	2	32
Tennessee	113	113	26	252
Texas	434	0	284	718
Utah	72	56	0	128
Vermont	19	10	0	29
Virgin Islands	2	2	16	20
Virginia	96	71	28	195
Washington	142	93	9	244
West Virginia	42	49	8	99
Wisconsin	85	53	10	148

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	Yes	No	Unknown/Missing	State Total
Wyoming	19	19	1	39
<b>National Total</b>	4881	3330	1789	10000

### Additional Assistive Technology

State	Yes	No	Unknown/Missing	State Total
Alabama	59	126	3	188
Alaska	11	8	4	23
Arizona	31	101	79	211
Arkansas	46	114	23	183
California	265	299	441	1005
Colorado	72	65	4	141
Connecticut	20	24	13	57
Delaware	37	23	7	67
District of Columbia	6	10	4	20
Florida	117	80	377	574
Georgia	149	124	1	274
Hawaii	12	28	20	60
Idaho	19	34	3	56
Illinois	231	93	14	338
Indiana	75	71	57	203
Iowa	28	43	15	86
Kansas	76	20	4	100
Kentucky	100	25	0	125
Louisiana	41	16	43	100
Maine	7	11	20	38
Maryland	68	89	22	179
Massachusetts	56	62	127	245
Michigan	177	151	0	328
Minnesota	188	161	25	374
Mississippi	16	37	14	67
Missouri	122	101	0	223
Montana	27	21	0	48
Nebraska	68	31	2	101
Nevada	63	42	1	106
New Hampshire	18	29	29	76
New Jersey	73	129	10	212
New Mexico	40	53	35	128
New York	41	51	265	357
North Carolina	141	128	11	280
North Dakota	20	10	1	31
Ohio	150	116	131	397
Oklahoma	56	73	36	165
Oregon	34	47	11	92
Pacific Basin	7	40	10	57
Pennsylvania	304	272	0	576
Puerto Rico	26	4	0	30

## 2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	Yes	No	Unknown/Missing	State Total
Rhode Island	14	22	2	38
South Carolina	53	48	36	137
South Dakota	18	13	1	32
Tennessee	72	146	34	252
Texas	667	0	51	718
Utah	86	35	7	128
Vermont	24	5	0	29
Virgin Islands	2	1	17	20
Virginia	99	50	46	195
Washington	99	123	22	244
West Virginia	61	28	10	99
Wisconsin	73	55	20	148
Wyoming	35	4	0	39
<b>National Total</b>	<b>4400</b>	<b>3492</b>	<b>2108</b>	<b>10000</b>

## Etiologies

Over 70 specific etiologies are identified in the 2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count. Some are exceedingly rare, with less than five cases. Others are much more prevalent. There are 13 etiologies with at least 100 cases, and one – Corneilia de Lange, with 99.

Complications from prematurity continues to be the most commonly identified etiology. The prevalence of CHARGE syndrome continues to increase. In 2017 there were 933 children and youth identified as having CHARGE syndrome. While still relatively rare, the prevalence of children with Stickler syndrome and Dandy Walker syndrome has also increased. About 19.0% of the children and youth have no determined etiology.

Overall, the total number of children and youth identified with a prenatal congenital or postnatal non-congenital etiology has declined from 2,732 to 2,551 over the past five years, while the number with hereditary syndromes and disorders has increased from 3,945 to 4,482. Hereditary syndrome and disorders now account for 44.8% of all identified etiologies. Prenatal congenital complications account for 13.9% of identified etiologies and postnatal non-congenital complications account for 11.6% of identified etiologies. Complications from prematurity account for 10.5% of identified etiologies and 19.2% of the children and youth had no identified etiology at the time data was collected.

Congenital Rubella Syndrome (CRS), which has long been associated with the development of the deaf-blind technical assistance system, is no longer a prevalent etiology. In 2017, there were 41 individuals whose etiology was identified as CRS, down from 89 in 2010. Over 75% of these individuals are over 10 years of age and over 50% are 15 years of age or older.

The heterogeneous nature of the population cannot be overstated. The etiologies or causes of deaf-blindness bring unique issues and challenges. Some are relatively more common, such as CHARGE syndrome, Down syndrome, Usher syndrome, and

Cytomegalovirus. Some are very rare, with less than five individuals reported nationally, such as Batten disease, Prader-Willi, and Kearns-Sayre syndrome.

### Primary Identified Etiology

<b>Hereditary Syndromes/Disorders</b>	<b>Total</b>
CHARGE syndrome	933
Usher syndrome (I,II,III)	329
Down syndrome (Trisomy 21 syndrome)	315
Stickler syndrome	137
Dandy Walker syndrome	115
Goldenhar syndrome	101
OTHER: Hereditary Syndrome/Disorders	2,552
<b>Prenatal/Congenital Complications</b>	
Cytomegalovirus (CMV)	292
Hydrocephaly	214
Microcephaly	206
OTHER: Pre-Natal/Congenital Complications	679
<b>Postnatal/Non-Congenital</b>	
Asphyxia	194
Severe Head Injury	159
Meningitis	137
OTHER: Post-Natal/ Non-Congenital	670
<b>Complication of Prematurity</b>	1,047
<b>No Determination of Etiology</b>	1,920

More detail about etiology is provided in the following four tables.



### Etiology Detail: Hereditary Syndromes/Disorders

State	CHARGE Syndrome	Dandy Walker Syndrome	Down Syndrome	Goldenhar Syndrome	Stickler Syndrome	Usher Syndrome (I,II,III)	OTHER: Hereditary Syndromes/ Disorders
Alabama	10	3	10	2	3	6	61
Alaska	2	0	3	0	0	1	3
Arizona	26	5	4	5	3	5	57
Arkansas	7	2	9	1	0	1	48
California	95	7	42	8	13	30	219
Colorado	8	3	8	2	3	9	46
Connecticut	8	0	1	0	0	3	14
Delaware	2	3	1	0	0	0	10
District of Columbia	2	0	0	0	1	1	2
Florida	56	2	16	5	4	13	100
Georgia	23	5	7	3	9	9	63
Hawaii	2	0	3	0	2	0	13
Idaho	5	1	3	2	1	3	14
Illinois	36	4	12	6	4	20	72
Indiana	29	6	2	3	5	8	34
Iowa	18	2	3	0	1	5	18
Kansas	3	1	4	1	1	3	39
Kentucky	18	0	3	1	2	4	16
Louisiana	5	0	1	0	1	11	20
Maine	9	0	0	0	0	0	10
Maryland	21	2	2	3	2	2	37
Massachusetts	26	1	9	0	2	12	54
Michigan	33	3	13	3	5	13	84
Minnesota	38	2	16	4	21	18	121
Mississippi	4	1	2	0	0	1	31
Missouri	23	2	6	2	8	5	61
Montana	3	0	0	1	1	4	21
Nebraska	9	0	2	2	1	5	29
Nevada	7	3	4	1	1	3	35

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	CHARGE Syndrome	Dandy Walker Syndrome	Down Syndrome	Goldenhar Syndrome	Stickler Syndrome	Usher Syndrome (I,II,III)	OTHER: Hereditary Syndromes/ Disorders
New Hampshire	4	2	6	0	0	2	27
New Jersey	31	4	6	1	0	10	48
New Mexico	5	0	8	1	2	1	49
New York	46	4	12	3	2	16	84
North Carolina	33	3	5	2	0	7	58
North Dakota	4	2	2	0	0	3	6
Ohio	27	5	1	6	5	10	73
Oklahoma	4	2	8	1	0	6	38
Oregon	11	2	1	1	3	3	33
Pacific Basin	1	0	2	0	0	0	2
Pennsylvania	38	1	12	8	6	14	149
Puerto Rico	1	2	0	1	0	0	12
Rhode Island	1	2	0	1	0	1	9
South Carolina	22	2	4	5	5	4	38
South Dakota	3	0	3	1	0	1	3
Tennessee	24	3	8	1	4	6	76
Texas	81	10	28	11	2	21	251
Utah	9	2	3	1	1	3	42
Vermont	1	0	1	0	0	0	11
Virgin Islands	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Virginia	17	1	5	0	3	9	49
Washington	17	6	6	1	6	8	88
West Virginia	4	1	4	1	2	3	29
Wisconsin	16	2	1	0	2	5	24
Wyoming	4	1	3	0	0	1	21
<b>National Total</b>	<b>933</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>2552</b>

## Etiology Detail: Prenatal/Congenital Complications

State	Cytomegalovirus (CMV)	Hydrocephaly	Microcephaly	OTHER: Prenatal/ Congenital Complications
Alabama	8	1	0	19
Alaska	0	0	1	2
Arizona	17	0	3	16
Arkansas	8	7	7	28
California	11	18	26	61
Colorado	5	3	1	7
Connecticut	1	1	1	3
Delaware	2	3	3	7
District of Columbia	1	1	0	3
Florida	9	7	10	32
Georgia	8	5	2	13
Hawaii	0	1	1	6
Idaho	1	2	1	4
Illinois	9	12	6	32
Indiana	11	3	4	11
Iowa	3	1	3	3
Kansas	0	2	1	11
Kentucky	7	1	0	13
Louisiana	3	3	1	3
Maine	0	1	1	2
Maryland	8	1	2	9
Massachusetts	5	5	9	11
Michigan	8	7	13	23
Minnesota	15	6	4	16
Mississippi	3	3	1	3
Missouri	11	6	7	12
Montana	2	0	0	2
Nebraska	4	4	3	6
Nevada	1	2	3	13
New Hampshire	6	0	5	4
New Jersey	4	3	5	24
New Mexico	4	5	1	12
New York	11	8	3	21
North Carolina	8	10	10	16
North Dakota	1	0	1	1
Ohio	5	7	10	18
Oklahoma	10	9	5	9
Oregon	7	1	1	9
Pacific Basin	0	0	1	7
Pennsylvania	9	12	7	80
Puerto Rico	1	4	1	0
Rhode Island	0	3	1	3
South Carolina	4	3	0	9
South Dakota	1	0	0	0

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	Cytomegalovirus (CMV)	Hydrocephaly	Microcephaly	OTHER: Prenatal/ Congenital Complications
Tennessee	7	2	8	11
Texas	23	20	17	34
Utah	4	5	1	3
Vermont	1	2	2	2
Virgin Islands	0	0	0	1
Virginia	6	1	1	13
Washington	10	0	13	18
West Virginia	2	3	4	10
Wisconsin	7	2	3	3
Wyoming	0	0	0	0
<b>National Total</b>	292	206	214	679

**Etiology Detail: Postnatal/Non-Congenital Complications**

State	Asphyxia	Meningitis	Severe Head Injury	OTHER: Postnatal/Non-Congenital
Alabama	0	1	0	13
Alaska	0	0	0	1
Arizona	0	6	2	6
Arkansas	3	5	10	14
California	17	13	8	60
Colorado	2	4	0	19
Connecticut	1	0	1	5
Delaware	3	1	1	12
District of Columbia	1	1	0	3
Florida	1	4	1	43
Georgia	16	2	3	14
Hawaii	1	1	0	6
Idaho	0	0	3	2
Illinois	7	7	9	18
Indiana	1	2	6	3
Iowa	2	1	4	6
Kansas	0	1	7	11
Kentucky	5	4	3	11
Louisiana	1	0	1	10
Maine	2	0	2	4
Maryland	1	0	3	14
Massachusetts	3	1	4	10
Michigan	16	6	6	12
Minnesota	5	8	5	17
Mississippi	0	2	1	2
Missouri	2	3	2	24
Montana	1	0	1	4
Nebraska	1	4	2	5
Nevada	4	0	3	9

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	Asphyxia	Meningitis	Severe Head Injury	OTHER: Postnatal/Non-Congenital
New Hampshire	2	1	1	2
New Jersey	9	2	4	17
New Mexico	7	1	3	1
New York	6	3	1	24
North Carolina	3	1	7	21
North Dakota	0	1	1	2
Ohio	8	0	3	21
Oklahoma	7	3	4	16
Oregon	1	0	2	6
Pacific Basin	0	4	2	2
Pennsylvania	6	4	9	64
Puerto Rico	0	1	1	1
Rhode Island	4	1	0	0
South Carolina	0	1	1	4
South Dakota	1	2	4	0
Tennessee	8	9	9	16
Texas	4	12	6	46
Utah	5	2	0	10
Vermont	3	2	0	0
Virgin Islands	0	0	0	2
Virginia	7	4	3	20
Washington	8	3	4	13
West Virginia	3	1	0	15
Wisconsin	6	2	6	9
Wyoming	0	0	0	0
<b>National Total</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>159</b>	<b>670</b>

**Etiology Detail: Other**

State	Complication of Prematurity	No Determination of Etiology	Combined Etiology Detail State Total
Alabama	8	43	188
Alaska	1	9	23
Arizona	18	38	211
Arkansas	19	14	183
California	88	289	1005
Colorado	5	16	141
Connecticut	11	7	57
Delaware	11	8	67
District of Columbia	2	2	20
Florida	59	212	574
Georgia	58	34	274
Hawaii	5	19	60
Idaho	6	8	56
Illinois	45	39	338
Indiana	24	51	203

## 2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	Complication of Prematurity	No Determination of Etiology	Combined Etiology Detail State Total
Iowa	9	7	86
Kansas	5	10	100
Kentucky	23	14	125
Louisiana	11	29	100
Maine	1	6	38
Maryland	26	46	179
Massachusetts	18	75	245
Michigan	33	50	328
Minnesota	40	38	374
Mississippi	9	4	67
Missouri	22	27	223
Montana	2	6	48
Nebraska	14	10	101
Nevada	6	11	106
New Hampshire	5	9	76
New Jersey	17	27	212
New Mexico	12	16	128
New York	40	73	357
North Carolina	40	56	280
North Dakota	3	4	31
Ohio	27	171	397
Oklahoma	22	21	165
Oregon	2	9	92
Pacific Basin	0	36	57
Pennsylvania	59	98	576
Puerto Rico	5	0	30
Rhode Island	10	2	38
South Carolina	12	23	137
South Dakota	3	10	32
Tennessee	39	21	252
Texas	93	59	718
Utah	15	22	128
Vermont	1	3	29
Virgin Islands	1	15	20
Virginia	14	42	195
Washington	23	20	244
West Virginia	9	8	99
Wisconsin	16	44	148
Wyoming	0	9	39
<b>National Total</b>	<b>1047</b>	<b>1920</b>	<b>10000</b>

## Additional Disabilities

The nature and prevalence of additional challenges faced by the children and youth on the National Deaf-Blind Child Count have remained relatively stable during the past 5 years. Approximately 87% have been identified as having one or more additional disabilities. Most common are cognitive impairments, orthopedic impairments, and complex health care needs.

## 2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

The percentage of children and youth experiencing orthopedic or physical challenges has fluctuated between 59% and 61% during this time frame. Similarly, the percentage of children and youth experiencing intellectual/cognitive challenges has fluctuated between 65% and 68%. Slightly fewer children and youth have experienced complex health care needs, fluctuating between 51% and 53%.

The number of additional disabilities experienced by children and youth has increased over time. In 2005, just 13.1% of the children and youth on the count had four or more additional disabilities. In 2017, nearly 43% were reported as having four or more additional disabilities.

The population continues to be diverse in terms of experiencing additional disabilities. Almost 90% have one or more additional disabilities, and over 40% have four or more. The increasing level of complexity in the needs and challenges faced by this population requires continued evolution and adaptation in national, state, and local systems to provide needed services effectively. Conversely, more children and youth are also being identified with no additional disabilities. This group of children and youth has increase from 10.4% to 13.4% of the overall population over the past five years, requiring additional focus at the state and national levels.

## Other (Additional) Disabilities

State	Orthopedic Physical Impairments	Cognitive Impairments	Behavioral Disorders	Complex Health Care Needs	Speech Language Impairments	Other Impairments	State Total One or More Additional Disabilities
Alabama	75	98	26	57	133	39	144
Alaska	14	15	0	12	17	1	18
Arizona	118	149	4	82	181	25	189
Arkansas	152	166	21	137	175	32	177
California	479	622	161	481	681	317	858
Colorado	78	86	1	74	89	26	121
Connecticut	24	30	8	20	40	4	43
Delaware	37	31	1	27	35	0	39
District of Columbia	8	9	1	9	15	0	15
Florida	221	246	39	193	337	86	403
Georgia	131	214	6	58	204	79	246
Hawaii	32	43	5	39	41	2	55
Idaho	45	45	12	40	50	19	51
Illinois	227	218	17	149	211	20	300
Indiana	96	131	14	99	152	32	177
Iowa	52	57	18	54	9	0	75
Kansas	81	86	17	75	91	40	93
Kentucky	82	98	4	88	123	2	124
Louisiana	56	51	12	43	58	14	69
Maine	19	16	2	18	24	3	26
Maryland	117	126	18	91	140	24	162
Massachusetts	94	102	29	103	137	13	153
Michigan	230	266	50	182	281	327	327
Minnesota	247	254	72	222	303	11	337
Mississippi	54	50	3	46	53	14	63
Missouri	168	169	13	151	197	15	218
Montana	27	34	4	22	44	11	47
Nebraska	61	69	8	58	90	35	98
Nevada	78	79	17	67	95	5	100
New Hampshire	38	34	10	30	43	10	48
New Jersey	138	110	39	127	175	5	200



2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	Orthopedic Physical Impairments	Cognitive Impairments	Behavioral Disorders	Complex Health Care Needs	Speech Language Impairments	Other Impairments	State Total One or More Additional Disabilities
New Mexico	92	99	14	80	108	34	121
New York	183	177	33	128	110	73	272
North Carolina	189	218	27	151	237	22	270
North Dakota	19	15	1	20	26	5	28
Ohio	179	200	35	163	179	57	260
Oklahoma	104	142	11	81	147	25	165
Oregon	63	66	4	42	71	11	84
Pacific Basin	21	33	8	19	48	7	48
Pennsylvania	386	416	58	351	489	73	539
Puerto Rico	18	22	3	23	28	11	29
Rhode Island	30	32	2	22	37	4	37
South Carolina	85	93	8	75	103	17	123
South Dakota	15	24	4	13	28	2	29
Tennessee	184	197	10	151	227	47	247
Texas	443	452	37	354	605	186	660
Utah	100	113	8	68	119	2	123
Vermont	24	26	3	18	28	0	29
Virgin Islands	4	3	1	2	4	0	5
Virginia	97	108	17	90	125	33	144
Washington	182	189	17	173	228	87	235
West Virginia	55	41	5	47	71	9	75
Wisconsin	104	93	19	98	116	10	127
Wyoming	27	32	13	27	35	7	37
<b>National Total</b>	<b>5883</b>	<b>6495</b>	<b>970</b>	<b>5050</b>	<b>7393</b>	<b>1933</b>	<b>8663</b>

## Part C Information

Because Part C is non-categorical, the vast majority of infants and toddlers are identified as developmentally delayed. Some states provide an “at risk” category. About 18% of infants and toddlers were identified as at risk.

Almost all infants and toddlers receive intervention services in the home.

The apparent continued under-identification and referral to deaf-blind programs of very young children remains an important need. Infants and toddlers greatly benefit from having access to expertise in deaf-blindness and must receive appropriate services that address the impact of dual sensory impairments. Further, parents and families of these infants and toddlers can benefit from supports established within states. Without such early identification and referral to state deaf-blind programs, access to needed services and supports is compromised.

As Part C agencies continue to appropriately serve children and families, there are increased needs for early interventionists with knowledge of deaf-blind intervention and instruction.

## IDEA Part C Reported Category

State	At-Risk	Developmentally Delayed	Not Reported Under Part C	Unknown/ Missing	State Total
Alabama	3	5	0	0	8
Alaska	0	1	0	0	1
Arizona	6	6	1	0	13
Arkansas	1	3	0	0	4
California	12	21	3	15	51
Colorado	0	9	1	0	10
Connecticut	0	2	0	0	2
Delaware	0	0	0	0	0
District of Columbia	0	0	0	0	0
Florida	0	13	0	0	13
Georgia	19	0	0	0	19
Hawaii	0	2	0	0	2
Idaho	0	2	0	0	2
Illinois	6	5	0	0	11
Indiana	0	4	0	0	4
Iowa	4	2	0	0	6
Kansas	0	13	0	1	14
Kentucky	0	11	0	0	11
Louisiana	1	7	0	0	8
Maine	1	2	0	0	3
Maryland	1	4	0	0	5
Massachusetts	1	11	0	0	12
Michigan	2	6	0	0	8

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	At-Risk	Developmentally Delayed	Not Reported Under Part C	Unknown/ Missing	State Total
Minnesota	7	16	0	0	23
Mississippi	0	6	0	0	6
Missouri	13	16	0	0	29
Montana	3	1	0	0	4
Nebraska	0	4	0	0	4
Nevada	0	15	1	0	16
New Hampshire	0	3	0	0	3
New Jersey	0	8	0	0	8
New Mexico	0	9	0	0	9
New York	4	6	0	0	10
North Carolina	6	11	0	0	17
North Dakota	0	2	0	0	2
Ohio	4	2	0	0	6
Oklahoma	1	8	0	1	10
Oregon	2	8	0	0	10
Pacific Basin	2	1	0	0	3
Pennsylvania	2	104	5	0	111
Puerto Rico	0	2	0	0	2
Rhode Island	0	2	0	0	2
South Carolina	2	12	0	0	14
South Dakota	0	2	0	0	2
Tennessee	7	19	1	0	27
Texas	3	32	2	0	37
Utah	1	10	0	0	11
Vermont	0	3	0	0	3
Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	0
Virginia	0	7	0	0	7
Washington	2	9	0	0	11
West Virginia	0	1	0	2	3
Wisconsin	3	10	0	0	13
Wyoming	0	3	0	0	3
<b>National Total</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>461</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>613</b>

**Early Intervention Setting (Ages Birth through 2)**

State	Home	Community-based Setting	Other Setting	Unknown/ Missing	State Total
Alabama	7	1	0	0	8
Alaska	1	0	0	0	1
Arizona	13	0	0	0	13
Arkansas	1	1	2	0	4
California	38	2	1	10	51
Colorado	6	1	3	0	10
Connecticut	2	0	0	0	2
Delaware	0	0	0	0	0
District of Columbia	0	0	0	0	0
Florida	13	0	0	0	13
Georgia	18	1	0	0	19

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	Home	Community-based Setting	Other Setting	Unknown/ Missing	State Total
Hawaii	2	0	0	0	2
Idaho	2	0	0	0	2
Illinois	11	0	0	0	11
Indiana	3	1	0	0	4
Iowa	6	0	0	0	6
Kansas	11	1	0	2	14
Kentucky	11	0	0	0	11
Louisiana	7	1	0	0	8
Maine	3	0	0	0	3
Maryland	5	0	0	0	5
Massachusetts	12	0	0	0	12
Michigan	6	2	0	0	8
Minnesota	23	0	0	0	23
Mississippi	2	4	0	0	6
Missouri	29	0	0	0	29
Montana	4	0	0	0	4
Nebraska	3	1	0	0	4
Nevada	16	0	0	0	16
New Hampshire	3	0	0	0	3
New Jersey	8	0	0	0	8
New Mexico	7	2	0	0	9
New York	7	0	3	0	10
North Carolina	14	3	0	0	17
North Dakota	2	0	0	0	2
Ohio	3	3	0	0	6
Oklahoma	9	0	1	0	10
Oregon	10	0	0	0	10
Pacific Basin	2	1	0	0	3
Pennsylvania	105	4	2	0	111
Puerto Rico	1	1	0	0	2
Rhode Island	2	0	0	0	2
South Carolina	13	0	1	0	14
South Dakota	2	0	0	0	2
Tennessee	24	2	0	1	27
Texas	35	1	1	0	37
Utah	11	0	0	0	11
Vermont	2	1	0	0	3
Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	0
Virginia	7	0	0	0	7
Washington	9	0	1	1	11
West Virginia	3	0	0	0	3
Wisconsin	13	0	0	0	13
Wyoming	3	0	0	0	3
<b>National Total</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>613</b>

## Part B Information

The distribution of Part B Disability Categories has remained fairly stable over the past 7 years. No significant shifts have occurred. Over two-thirds of all the children and youth in Part B have one of 4 designations: Multiple Disability (37.7%), Deaf-Blind (15.8%), Hearing Impaired (9.4%), or Visually Impaired (5.1%). This distribution has remained essentially unchanged for the past five years.

The percentage of young children, aged 3 to 5, educated in a regular early childhood education setting some portion of the day has doubled in the past decade from less than 15% to 30%. Over 60% of school-age children and youth in special education are being served at least a portion of their day in a regular classroom in their local school. This is consistent across the age span.

Over one quarter (26.1%) of children and youth on the 2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count participate in the regular curriculum as indicated by participating in statewide assessments tied to regular grade level standards. This is up slightly from 2016.

While educational placement does not determine access to the regular curriculum, nearly 78% of students taking state assessments tied to regular grade level standards were in a regular classroom some portion of their day.

The continued trend toward educational placement in inclusive settings, especially at the pre-school level, is significant and positive for children and families. The trend does, however, have profound implications on the need for information, resources, and access to expertise in deaf-blindness being available at a local level. Concurrently, as schools and Part C agencies continue to appropriately place and serve children locally, there are increased needs for more interventionists and teachers with knowledge of deaf-blind intervention and instruction, and for individualized supports, including the provision of intervener services.

While access to the general curriculum and graduation from high school has improved for the population of children and youth who are deaf-blind, significant efforts are needed to expand these opportunities.

**IDEA Part B Reported Category (Part 1 of 2)**

State	Intellectual Disability	Hearing Impairment	Speech Language Impairment	Visual Impairment	Emotional Disturbance	Orthopedic Impairment	Other Health Impairment	Specific Learning Disability
Alabama	7	43	3	16	11	2	2	1
Alaska	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0
Arizona	0	12	0	5	0	0	0	0
Arkansas	8	8	0	4	0	0	9	0
California	40	128	5	62	2	39	15	2
Colorado	0	3	0	4	0	2	6	0
Connecticut	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
Delaware	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
District of Columbia	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0
Florida	60	72	1	18	0	2	12	0
Georgia	97	20	1	13	1	1	24	1
Hawaii	2	3	0	1	0	0	2	0
Idaho	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0
Illinois	53	45	3	17	0	1	40	0
Indiana	7	20	2	22	0	3	5	0
Iowa	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kansas	0	1	0	3	0	0	4	0
Kentucky	0	11	0	3	0	0	0	1
Louisiana	5	7	0	2	0	1	2	1
Maine	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	0
Maryland	1	10	0	2	0	0	18	0
Massachusetts	2	11	3	5	0	0	4	2
Michigan	13	31	2	10	1	2	20	3
Minnesota	10	26	0	3	2	0	8	0
Mississippi	0	1	0	1	0	1	1	0
Missouri	6	10	2	8	0	0	20	0
Montana	1	2	2	6	0	0	3	0
Nebraska	1	8	0	3	0	0	17	0
Nevada	3	8	0	0	0	0	7	0

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	Intellectual Disability	Hearing Impairment	Speech Language Impairment	Visual Impairment	Emotional Disturbance	Orthopedic Impairment	Other Health Impairment	Specific Learning Disability
New Hampshire	2	5	2	3	0	2	2	0
New Jersey	1	3	0	1	0	0	2	0
New Mexico	2	12	1	6	0	0	5	1
New York	7	44	68	22	2	0	13	3
North Carolina	14	9	1	9	0	0	14	0
North Dakota	7	3	1	3	0	2	6	0
Ohio	7	29	2	33	1	2	7	2
Oklahoma	1	12	0	7	0	0	2	0
Oregon	9	12	1	14	0	9	6	0
Pacific Basin	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	0
Pennsylvania	21	74	4	53	2	1	29	5
Puerto Rico	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
Rhode Island	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Carolina	13	29	0	8	0	3	8	0
South Dakota	1	3	2	2	0	0	0	0
Tennessee	11	18	1	7	0	0	12	0
Texas	66	79	1	62	0	12	107	1
Utah	0	2	0	3	0	0	3	1
Vermont	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	0
Virgin Islands	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Virginia	7	16	0	12	1	0	16	0
Washington	4	10	0	4	0	1	30	0
West Virginia	11	6	0	13	0	2	8	0
Wisconsin	13	18	0	7	0	4	24	0
Wyoming	0	1	1	2	0	0	3	0
<b>National Total</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>880</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>483</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>528</b>	<b>24</b>

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

**IDEA Part B Reported Category (Part 2 of 2)**

State	Deaf-Blindness	Multiple Disabilities	Autism	Traumatic Brain Injury	Developmentally Delayed (optional age 3 - 9)	Non-Categorical	Unknown/ Not Reported Under Part B	State Total
Alabama	40	43	0	1	3	0	8	180
Alaska	8	8	0	0	0	0	2	22
Arizona	1	175	0	2	0	0	3	198
Arkansas	5	122	2	5	14	0	2	179
California	98	77	12	11	12	0	451	954
Colorado	37	66	5	0	1	2	5	131
Connecticut	9	24	1	1	18	0	0	55
Delaware	62	0	0	0	0	0	4	67
District of Columbia	3	9	0	0	3	0	1	20
Florida	49	249	0	7	34	0	57	561
Georgia	34	7	7	0	44	1	4	255
Hawaii	4	37	0	0	0	0	9	58
Idaho	8	32	0	0	10	0	2	54
Illinois	23	119	6	0	9	0	11	327
Indiana	25	106	1	2	5	0	1	199
Iowa	0	0	0	0	0	80	0	80
Kansas	13	48	1	2	12	0	2	86
Kentucky	16	68	1	0	13	0	1	114
Louisiana	5	29	0	2	4	0	34	92
Maine	5	14	0	0	10	1	0	35
Maryland	16	102	2	0	9	1	13	174
Massachusetts	80	82	3	0	36	5	0	233
Michigan	25	188	5	2	2	3	13	320
Minnesota	123	140	2	3	34	0	0	351
Mississippi	9	36	0	0	12	0	0	61
Missouri	23	97	0	2	23	2	1	194
Montana	8	11	0	1	6	1	3	44
Nebraska	20	38	0	2	8	0	0	97
Nevada	9	52	2	1	5	0	3	90



2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	Deaf-Blindness	Multiple Disabilities	Autism	Traumatic Brain Injury	Developmentally Delayed (optional age 3 - 9)	Non-Categorical	Unknown/ Not Reported Under Part B	State Total
New Hampshire	12	26	1	1	17	0	0	73
New Jersey	21	146	0	1	24	4	1	204
New Mexico	17	71	1	0	3	0	0	119
New York	29	45	0	3	13	0	98	347
North Carolina	36	158	3	6	9	0	4	263
North Dakota	2	0	1	1	1	1	1	29
Ohio	31	223	5	6	25	18	0	391
Oklahoma	19	68	2	0	28	0	16	155
Oregon	13	3	2	1	3	0	9	82
Pacific Basin	12	28	1	0	0	0	10	55
Pennsylvania	73	171	4	5	18	0	5	465
Puerto Rico	8	17	0	0	0	0	0	28
Rhode Island	4	27	1	0	1	0	0	36
South Carolina	9	34	0	0	7	0	12	123
South Dakota	2	18	0	1	1	0	0	30
Tennessee	12	125	3	0	20	0	16	225
Texas	318	17	7	3	4	4	0	681
Utah	13	86	0	0	8	0	1	117
Vermont	3	6	2	0	11	0	0	26
Virgin Islands	0	1	0	0	0	0	17	20
Virginia	24	91	4	1	12	2	2	188
Washington	28	129	0	2	12	0	13	233
West Virginia	28	14	0	0	11	1	1	95
Wisconsin	15	31	0	3	9	0	11	135
Wyoming	1	25	0	1	2	0	0	36
<b>National Total</b>	<b>1488</b>	<b>3539</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>847</b>	<b>9387</b>

### Educational Setting: ECSE (3 to 5) Settings

State	Regular EC Setting 80% of Time	Regular EC Setting 40 to 79% of Time	Regular EC Setting < 40% of Time	Separate Class	Separate School	Residential Facility	Service Provider Location	Home	Unknown/ Missing	State Total
Alabama	2	1	0	2	3	1	1	0	9	19
Alaska	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Arizona	0	0	0	6	9	0	0	0	0	15
Arkansas	0	0	4	0	7	0	1	0	2	14
California	3	1	7	19	15	0	2	6	34	87
Colorado	17	0	2	1	4	0	1	2	0	27
Connecticut	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	8
Delaware	0	1	1	0	5	0	3	0	5	15
District of Columbia	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	4
Florida	1	1	0	16	5	2	2	0	28	55
Georgia	0	0	3	28	3	0	0	4	2	40
Hawaii	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	0	2	8
Idaho	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	7
Illinois	6	1	5	8	2	0	0	2	5	29
Indiana	4	1	0	6	1	0	0	5	0	17
Iowa	3	0	2	2	1	0	1	4	0	13
Kansas	10	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	14
Kentucky	5	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	9
Louisiana	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	9	10
Maine	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	0	7
Maryland	0	2	0	1	3	0	1	2	9	18
Massachusetts	5	1	1	1	10	5	0	3	0	26
Michigan	13	2	1	5	21	0	1	1	0	44
Minnesota	9	11	1	11	6	0	0	1	0	39
Mississippi	5	0	0	3	3	0	0	3	0	14
Missouri	5	5	6	5	10	1	0	2	2	36
Montana	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	2	6
Nebraska	1	1	3	2	0	0	0	2	0	9
Nevada	0	0	0	4	2	0	0	6	1	13

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	Regular EC Setting 80% of Time	Regular EC Setting 40 to 79% of Time	Regular EC Setting < 40% of Time	Separate Class	Separate School	Residential Facility	Service Provider Location	Home	Unknown/ Missing	State Total
New Hampshire	8	2	1	1	0	5	0	0	0	17
New Jersey	4	2	1	1	4	14	1	0	2	29
New Mexico	6	1	1	0	1	2	0	5	8	24
New York	0	0	1	0	3	0	0	1	22	27
North Carolina	5	0	7	2	7	1	3	1	2	28
North Dakota	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	1	0	6
Ohio	4	8	3	0	5	2	3	1	0	26
Oklahoma	2	1	2	2	1	2	2	6	7	25
Oregon	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	11	16
Pacific Basin	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	4
Pennsylvania	19	6	5	12	36	1	1	23	16	119
Puerto Rico	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rhode Island	1	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	4
South Carolina	1	0	1	1	4	0	0	0	13	20
South Dakota	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	3
Tennessee	4	1	3	10	7	0	2	4	17	48
Texas	28	13	10	15	3	0	4	14	0	87
Utah	4	0	7	5	6	1	2	2	0	27
Vermont	4	0	3	0	0	0	0	2	0	9
Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
Virginia	1	1	3	2	2	0	0	1	15	25
Washington	3	1	4	7	3	1	0	4	13	36
West Virginia	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	5
Wisconsin	5	7	0	1	2	0	0	4	3	22
Wyoming	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	5
<b>National Total</b>	200	76	97	190	200	41	34	123	261	1222

### Educational Setting: School Aged (6 to21) Settings

State	Regular Class > 80%	Regular Class 40 to 79%	Regular Class < 40%	Separate School	Residential Facility	Homebound Hospital	Parentally Placed Private School	Unknown /Missing	State Total
Alabama	21	2	43	40	46	4	5	0	161
Alaska	0	4	6	1	0	4	1	3	19
Arizona	0	12	16	96	52	6	0	1	183
Arkansas	5	11	92	5	22	26	3	1	165
California	140	51	359	155	8	38	19	97	867
Colorado	16	18	41	17	7	5	0	0	104
Connecticut	11	4	9	21	1	1	0	0	47
Delaware	5	0	7	19	1	2	0	18	52
District of Columbia	0	2	0	5	0	0	0	9	16
Florida	91	28	178	79	4	24	11	91	506
Georgia	30	13	135	27	0	9	1	0	215
Hawaii	3	2	34	3	1	2	2	3	58
Idaho	9	3	20	5	0	5	1	4	47
Illinois	31	29	146	50	16	17	6	3	298
Indiana	41	18	85	13	16	4	5	0	182
Iowa	9	13	32	12	0	0	1	0	67
Kansas	10	13	38	3	0	5	0	3	72
Kentucky	13	24	46	8	8	5	1	0	105
Louisiana	6	3	20	2	9	9	5	28	82
Maine	8	8	4	4	2	0	2	0	28
Maryland	3	5	8	30	0	0	8	102	156
Massachusetts	33	30	66	46	9	7	13	3	207
Michigan	48	22	32	153	3	12	6	0	276
Minnesota	56	44	141	38	11	20	2	0	312
Mississippi	3	0	24	6	1	13	0	0	47
Missouri	20	27	45	53	0	9	4	0	158
Montana	5	5	18	4	3	2	1	0	38
Nebraska	18	24	32	9	1	2	2	0	88
Nevada	5	3	40	16	0	11	0	2	77
New Hampshire	13	10	11	7	2	7	4	2	56
New Jersey	2	16	9	20	124	3	1	0	175

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	Regular Class > 80%	Regular Class 40 to 79%	Regular Class < 40%	Separate School	Residential Facility	Homebound Hospital	Parentally Placed Private School	Unknown /Missing	State Total
New Mexico	27	4	30	14	12	7	1	0	95
New York	47	11	85	53	27	7	3	87	320
North Carolina	23	4	91	51	38	24	4	0	235
North Dakota	6	5	6	1	4	1	0	0	23
Ohio	85	47	93	113	9	17	1	0	365
Oklahoma	16	11	72	7	4	12	2	6	130
Oregon	15	10	33	0	1	5	2	0	66
Pacific Basin	3	16	13	0	0	8	2	8	54
Pennsylvania	61	44	89	120	5	3	13	11	346
Puerto Rico	4	2	6	5	0	11	0	0	28
Rhode Island	2	1	18	10	0	1	0	0	32
South Carolina	5	4	44	15	11	12	7	5	103
South Dakota	8	1	6	1	8	2	1	0	27
Tennessee	19	12	83	31	6	21	2	3	177
Texas	92	65	331	29	13	64	0	0	594
Utah	11	5	22	48	0	4	0	0	90
Vermont	4	4	6	1	0	2	0	0	17
Virgin Islands	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	12	16
Virginia	29	14	73	18	13	11	0	5	163
Washington	28	9	133	3	4	9	10	1	197
West Virginia	6	13	23	0	8	1	9	31	91
Wisconsin	18	15	56	8	2	3	5	6	113
Wyoming	4	3	22	0	0	2	0	0	31
<b>National Total</b>	1168	744	3075	1476	512	479	166	545	8177

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

**State Assessments**

State	Regular Grade-Level State Assessment	Regular with Accommodations	Alternative Assessments	Not Required at Age/Grade Level or Parent Opt Out	Unknown/Missing	State Total
Alabama	3	43	100	41	1	188
Alaska	1	1	7	13	1	23
Arizona	30	0	127	52	2	211
Arkansas	1	18	85	78	1	183
California	25	110	348	374	148	1005
Colorado	4	15	57	65	0	141
Connecticut	0	5	18	34	0	57
Delaware	3	2	17	38	7	67
District of Columbia	0	3	5	8	4	20
Florida	15	90	125	205	139	574
Georgia	15	28	130	101	0	274
Hawaii	0	2	20	33	5	60
Idaho	2	2	14	38	0	56
Illinois	6	49	141	142	0	338
Indiana	5	67	104	27	0	203
Iowa	1	23	36	26	0	86
Kansas	0	12	36	48	4	100
Kentucky	0	13	40	72	0	125
Louisiana	3	4	13	43	37	100
Maine	1	1	6	29	1	38
Maryland	0	40	84	44	11	179
Massachusetts	7	4	108	125	1	245
Michigan	4	44	188	92	0	328
Minnesota	4	59	180	131	0	374
Mississippi	0	3	27	37	0	67
Missouri	1	38	79	105	0	223
Montana	1	10	18	19	0	48
Nebraska	2	18	43	38	0	101
Nevada	1	10	49	44	2	106
New Hampshire	3	0	17	55	1	76
New Jersey	4	18	142	48	0	212
New Mexico	4	14	77	33	0	128

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	Regular Grade-Level State Assessment	Regular with Accommodations	Alternative Assessments	Not Required at Age/Grade Level or Parent Opt Out	Unknown/Missing	State Total
New York	8	31	59	123	136	357
North Carolina	5	30	142	99	4	280
North Dakota	0	6	8	17	0	31
Ohio	70	5	179	143	0	397
Oklahoma	1	4	74	82	4	165
Oregon	9	0	24	56	3	92
Pacific Basin	0	1	25	24	7	57
Pennsylvania	12	65	161	338	0	576
Puerto Rico	0	4	8	18	0	30
Rhode Island	0	1	21	16	0	38
South Carolina	2	21	42	71	1	137
South Dakota	5	3	10	14	0	32
Tennessee	2	19	69	162	0	252
Texas	41	59	248	370	0	718
Utah	0	8	50	70	0	128
Vermont	0	1	12	16	0	29
Virgin Islands	0	1	1	6	12	20
Virginia	10	16	94	71	4	195
Washington	6	23	104	110	1	244
West Virginia	1	9	24	61	4	99
Wisconsin	2	19	55	67	5	148
Wyoming	0	3	21	15	0	39
<b>National Total</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>1075</b>	<b>3872</b>	<b>4187</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>10000</b>

## Educational Supports

Data on children and youth receiving intervener services was collected on a pilot basis during the 2014 child count, with some state deaf-blind projects collecting the information. A total of 394 children and youth were reported as receiving intervener services during that year. The category was fully implemented in 2015, during which 587 children and youth were reported as receiving intervener services. This year (2017), 713 children and youth were reported as receiving intervener services.

Interveners are key players in providing access to a child or youth who is deaf-blind. They provide access to information, the environment, communication, and conceptual learning. While it is encouraging to see that 713 children and youth are receiving intervener services, it is also discouraging that this accounts for only 7% of the population. Continued efforts are needed to implement the [2012 Intervener Service Recommendations](#).

## Intervener Services

State	Yes	No	Unknown/ Missing	State Total
Alabama	0	188	0	188
Alaska	0	22	1	23
Arizona	15	195	1	211
Arkansas	0	183	0	183
California	68	366	571	1005
Colorado	5	135	1	141
Connecticut	5	44	8	57
Delaware	0	67	0	67
District of Columbia	1	19	0	20
Florida	11	61	502	574
Georgia	12	227	35	274
Hawaii	0	60	0	60
Idaho	0	56	0	56
Illinois	7	314	17	338
Indiana	12	171	20	203
Iowa	0	86	0	86
Kansas	9	86	5	100
Kentucky	0	125	0	125
Louisiana	2	50	48	100
Maine	3	30	5	38
Maryland	9	157	13	179
Massachusetts	14	192	39	245
Michigan	28	300	0	328
Minnesota	99	275	0	374
Mississippi	0	67	0	67
Missouri	43	179	1	223
Montana	2	46	0	48
Nebraska	16	61	24	101
Nevada	12	68	26	106



## 2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	Yes	No	Unknown/ Missing	State Total
New Hampshire	11	57	8	76
New Jersey	10	152	50	212
New Mexico	2	125	1	128
New York	2	24	331	357
North Carolina	17	257	6	280
North Dakota	1	30	0	31
Ohio	0	357	40	397
Oklahoma	13	139	13	165
Oregon	1	88	3	92
Pacific Basin	0	57	0	57
Pennsylvania	78	365	133	576
Puerto Rico	0	30	0	30
Rhode Island	0	38	0	38
South Carolina	9	101	27	137
South Dakota	3	29	0	32
Tennessee	3	249	0	252
Texas	61	592	65	718
Utah	60	67	1	128
Vermont	7	22	0	29
Virgin Islands	0	18	2	20
Virginia	21	174	0	195
Washington	22	149	73	244
West Virginia	0	97	2	99
Wisconsin	17	99	32	148
Wyoming	2	27	10	39
<b>National Total</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>7173</b>	<b>2114</b>	<b>10000</b>

## Living Setting

The vast majority of children and youth live at home with their parents or extended family (92.87%). This percentage has gone up slightly over the past five years. Fewer children and youth are living with foster parents, in state or private residential facilities, or in group homes or apartments.

Given that almost all children and youth who are deaf-blind live in a home setting, providing supports to families (nuclear, extended, and foster) is critical. Supports that include access to parent networks and leadership/self-advocacy skills training are important components of the umbrella of services needed for children who are deaf-blind and their families.

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

**Living Setting (Part 1 of 2)**

State	Home: Parents	Home: Extended Family	Home: Foster Parents	State Residential Facility	Private Residential Facility	Group Home (less than 6 residents)
Alabama	179	3	1	5	0	0
Alaska	20	1	1	0	0	0
Arizona	199	5	6	1	0	0
Arkansas	151	6	1	3	21	0
California	881	18	17	0	1	3
Colorado	135	4	2	0	0	0
Connecticut	53	2	0	1	0	0
Delaware	63	1	2	0	0	0
District of Columbia	15	1	1	0	0	0
Florida	462	95	6	1	1	0
Georgia	249	14	10	0	0	0
Hawaii	51	3	0	0	0	0
Idaho	39	16	1	0	0	0
Illinois	292	9	7	14	5	0
Indiana	173	15	5	1	8	0
Iowa	80	3	1	1	0	0
Kansas	90	5	3	0	0	0
Kentucky	107	10	6	0	0	0
Louisiana	56	8	0	7	3	0
Maine	36	1	0	0	1	0
Maryland	167	3	1	0	0	1
Massachusetts	237	3	2	0	2	0
Michigan	311	6	3	0	0	6
Minnesota	348	15	8	1	0	0
Mississippi	59	4	1	1	1	0
Missouri	213	6	3	0	0	0
Montana	40	3	0	3	0	1
Nebraska	91	4	4	0	1	0
Nevada	100	3	0	0	1	0
New Hampshire	73	0	2	0	0	0
New Jersey	203	2	2	0	3	0
New Mexico	115	5	5	0	1	0
New York	287	10	6	0	1	3
North Carolina	220	12	0	3	35	2
North Dakota	26	0	0	0	0	0
Ohio	357	14	6	1	14	0
Oklahoma	137	10	8	5	1	0
Oregon	83	2	5	2	0	0
Pacific Basin	44	5	0	0	0	0
Pennsylvania	537	9	12	1	8	0
Puerto Rico	30	0	0	0	0	0
Rhode Island	32	3	0	0	2	0
South Carolina	124	8	3	0	0	0
South Dakota	24	0	1	2	5	0
Tennessee	225	15	8	3	0	0
Texas	668	31	10	0	3	1
Utah	123	1	2	0	0	0

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	Home: Parents	Home: Extended Family	Home: Foster Parents	State Residential Facility	Private Residential Facility	Group Home (less than 6 residents)
Vermont	29	0	0	0	0	0
Virgin Islands	10	0	0	0	0	0
Virginia	170	2	2	2	5	0
Washington	223	4	7	2	0	1
West Virginia	79	2	1	14	0	0
Wisconsin	130	1	2	1	0	1
Wyoming	34	2	3	0	0	0
<b>National Total</b>	<b>8880</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>19</b>

Living Setting (Part 2 of 2)

State	Group Home (6 or more residents)	Apartment (w/ non-family person(s))	Pediatric Nursing Home	Other	Unknown/Missing	State Total
Alabama	0	0	0	0	0	188
Alaska	0	0	0	1	0	23
Arizona	0	0	0	0	0	211
Arkansas	0	0	0	0	1	183
California	1	1	16	3	64	1005
Colorado	0	0	0	0	0	141
Connecticut	1	0	0	0	0	57
Delaware	0	0	1	0	0	67
District of Columbia	0	0	0	0	3	20
Florida	0	0	0	1	8	574
Georgia	1	0	0	0	0	274
Hawaii	0	0	2	2	2	60
Idaho	0	0	0	0	0	56
Illinois	0	0	11	0	0	338
Indiana	1	0	0	0	0	203
Iowa	1	0	0	0	0	86
Kansas	0	0	0	0	2	100
Kentucky	0	0	2	0	0	125
Louisiana	0	0	0	0	26	100
Maine	0	0	0	0	0	38
Maryland	0	0	0	1	6	179
Massachusetts	1	0	0	0	0	245
Michigan	2	0	0	0	0	328
Minnesota	1	0	0	0	1	374
Mississippi	0	0	0	1	0	67
Missouri	1	0	0	0	0	223
Montana	0	0	0	1	0	48
Nebraska	0	0	1	0	0	101
Nevada	0	0	0	2	0	106
New Hampshire	0	0	1	0	0	76
New Jersey	0	0	2	0	0	212
New Mexico	1	0	0	0	1	128
New York	1	0	5	3	41	357
North Carolina	1	0	0	5	2	280

## 2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	Group Home (6 or more residents)	Apartment (w/ non-family person(s))	Pediatric Nursing Home	Other	Unknown/Missing	State Total
North Dakota	5	0	0	0	0	31
Ohio	2	1	0	2	0	397
Oklahoma	0	0	0	2	2	165
Oregon	0	0	0	0	0	92
Pacific Basin	1	0	0	1	6	57
Pennsylvania	1	0	6	2	0	576
Puerto Rico	0	0	0	0	0	30
Rhode Island	0	0	1	0	0	38
South Carolina	0	0	0	0	2	137
South Dakota	0	0	0	0	0	32
Tennessee	0	0	0	0	1	252
Texas	1	0	2	2	0	718
Utah	0	0	0	1	1	128
Vermont	0	0	0	0	0	29
Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	10	20
Virginia	1	0	2	0	11	195
Washington	2	0	1	1	3	244
West Virginia	0	0	0	0	3	99
Wisconsin	0	0	0	0	13	148
Wyoming	0	0	0	0	0	39
<b>National Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>10000</b>

## Exiting Information

The vast majority of children who exit Part C are eligible for Part B (91.4%). This percentage has remained relatively constant over the past five years, varying between 90% and 93%. The balance have moved out of state, been withdrawn by parents, were not able to be contacted, or died.

An analysis to determine whether kids are “lost” in the transition from Part C to Part B revealed that about 15% of two-year-old children eligible for Part B on the 2016 National Deaf-Blind Child Count were not included on the 2017 child count as three year olds. Conversely, over one third (34.6%) of the 3 year old children on the 2017 child count were not included on the 2016 child count as 2 year olds. Clearly the transition from Part C to Part B represents a major child find challenge.

Children and youth exit Part B for a number of reasons. They graduate, age out, transfer to regular education, drop out, or die. From 2013 to 2017, there has been a decrease in the number of youth graduating with a regular diploma, from 199 to 153. This has been accompanied by an increase in the numbers of youth who have aged-out from 192 to 231.

Ensuring seamless transition between Part C and Part B is critical for maintaining appropriate services for children as they enter preschool. The number of children who seem to be “lost” in this transition warrants attention.

While access to the general curriculum and graduation from high school has improved for the population of children and youth who are deaf-blind, significant efforts are needed to expand these opportunities.

The need for post-secondary education or employment has important implications for the continued development of effective post-secondary supports for students who are exiting Part B every year, whether through having received a diploma or certificate, simply aging out, or transitioning to adult services. The growing number of youth who drop out of school also has important implications for effective educational programming and the continued development of effective post-secondary supports.

### Part C Exiting Status (Part 1 of 2)

State	In EI Program	Completion of IFSP Prior to Maximum Age	Eligible for Part B	Not Eligible for Part B, Referrals to Other Programs	Part B Eligibility Not Determined	Died
Alabama	8	0	4	0	0	0
Alaska	1	0	2	0	0	0
Arizona	13	0	2	0	0	1
Arkansas	4	0	3	0	0	0
California	51	0	22	0	1	0
Colorado	10	0	9	0	0	1
Connecticut	2	0	4	0	0	0
Delaware	0	0	3	0	0	0
District of Columbia	0	0	1	0	0	0
Florida	13	0	6	0	0	0
Georgia	19	0	11	0	2	2
Hawaii	2	0	2	0	0	0
Idaho	2	0	1	0	0	0
Illinois	11	0	9	0	1	0
Indiana	4	0	4	0	0	0
Iowa	6	0	3	0	0	0
Kansas	14	1	5	0	0	1
Kentucky	11	0	3	0	0	0
Louisiana	8	0	4	0	0	0
Maine	3	0	2	0	0	0
Maryland	5	0	8	0	0	0
Massachusetts	12	0	10	0	0	0
Michigan	8	0	17	0	0	0
Minnesota	23	0	9	0	0	0
Mississippi	6	0	6	0	0	0
Missouri	28	0	10	0	0	1

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	In EI Program	Completion of IFSP Prior to Maximum Age	Eligible for Part B	Not Eligible for Part B, Referrals to Other Programs	Part B Eligibility Not Determined	Died
Montana	4	0	2	0	1	0
Nebraska	4	0	1	0	0	0
Nevada	17	0	12	0	1	1
New Hampshire	3	0	9	0	0	0
New Jersey	8	0	7	0	0	0
New Mexico	11	0	7	0	0	0
New York	10	0	10	0	0	0
North Carolina	17	1	6	0	0	1
North Dakota	2	0	2	0	0	0
Ohio	6	0	8	0	0	0
Oklahoma	10	0	14	0	0	0
Oregon	10	0	2	0	0	0
Pacific Basin	3	0	1	0	0	0
Pennsylvania	111	0	52	0	0	2
Puerto Rico	2	0	1	0	0	0
Rhode Island	2	0	0	0	0	0
South Carolina	14	0	5	0	0	0
South Dakota	2	0	0	0	0	0
Tennessee	30	1	15	0	0	2
Texas	37	2	28	0	0	0
Utah	11	0	6	0	0	0
Vermont	3	0	3	0	0	0
Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	0	0
Virginia	7	0	4	0	0	0
Washington	11	0	19	0	0	0
West Virginia	3	0	0	0	0	0
Wisconsin	13	0	6	0	0	0
Wyoming	3	0	1	0	0	0
<b>National Total</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>

**Part C Exiting Status (Part 2 of 2)**

State	Moved Out of State	Withdrawn by Parent	Unable to Contact Parent	Unknown/Missing/Not in Part C	State Total
Alabama	0	0	0	0	12
Alaska	0	0	0	0	3
Arizona	0	0	0	0	16
Arkansas	0	0	0	0	7
California	0	0	0	0	74
Colorado	0	1	1	0	22
Connecticut	0	0	0	0	6
Delaware	0	0	0	0	3
District of Columbia	0	0	0	0	1
Florida	0	0	0	0	19
Georgia	0	1	0	0	35

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	Moved Out of State	Withdrawn by Parent	Unable to Contact Parent	Unknown/Missing/Not in Part C	State Total
Hawaii	0	0	0	0	4
Idaho	0	0	0	0	3
Illinois	1	0	0	0	22
Indiana	0	0	0	0	8
Iowa	0	0	0	0	9
Kansas	0	0	0	0	21
Kentucky	0	0	0	0	14
Louisiana	0	0	0	0	12
Maine	0	0	0	0	5
Maryland	0	0	0	0	13
Massachusetts	0	0	0	0	22
Michigan	0	0	0	0	25
Minnesota	0	0	0	0	32
Mississippi	0	0	0	0	12
Missouri	1	0	0	0	40
Montana	0	0	0	0	7
Nebraska	0	0	0	0	5
Nevada	2	0	0	0	33
New Hampshire	0	0	0	0	12
New Jersey	0	0	0	0	15
New Mexico	0	0	0	0	18
New York	0	0	0	0	20
North Carolina	0	0	0	0	25
North Dakota	0	0	0	0	4
Ohio	0	0	0	0	14
Oklahoma	0	0	0	0	24
Oregon	0	0	0	0	12
Pacific Basin	0	0	0	0	4
Pennsylvania	1	1	1	0	168
Puerto Rico	0	0	0	0	3
Rhode Island	0	0	0	0	2
South Carolina	0	0	0	0	19
South Dakota	0	0	0	0	2
Tennessee	0	2	1	0	51
Texas	0	0	0	0	67
Utah	0	0	0	0	17
Vermont	0	0	0	0	6
Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	0
Virginia	0	0	0	0	11
Washington	0	0	0	0	30
West Virginia	0	0	0	0	3
Wisconsin	0	0	0	0	19
Wyoming	0	0	0	0	4
<b>National Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1035</b>

**Part B Exiting Status (Part 1 of 2)**

State	In Special Education Program	Transferred to Regular Education	Graduated with Regular Diploma	Received a Certificate	Reached Maximum Age for Part B Services
Alabama	180	0	0	1	7
Alaska	22	0	0	0	3
Arizona	199	0	6	0	13
Arkansas	176	0	14	3	0
California	846	10	29	12	21
Colorado	131	1	0	0	2
Connecticut	54	1	1	0	1
Delaware	67	0	0	0	0
District of Columbia	20	0	0	0	0
Florida	560	3	4	0	14
Georgia	259	4	5	3	2
Hawaii	57	1	3	0	0
Idaho	55	0	0	0	0
Illinois	326	2	11	0	17
Indiana	196	0	5	2	0
Iowa	82	2	0	0	0
Kansas	91	0	0	0	0
Kentucky	112	0	8	3	0
Louisiana	93	0	0	0	2
Maine	35	2	3	0	0
Maryland	174	4	1	0	3
Massachusetts	230	1	0	0	15
Michigan	317	10	1	13	0
Minnesota	351	0	9	0	11
Mississippi	61	0	0	0	1
Missouri	208	0	1	0	10
Montana	47	0	1	0	0
Nebraska	95	0	4	1	0
Nevada	90	5	1	0	3
New Hampshire	74	0	0	0	2
New Jersey	204	2	0	0	0
New Mexico	122	0	0	0	0
New York	347	0	0	0	25
North Carolina	262	0	1	0	7
North Dakota	28	1	0	0	0
Ohio	408	7	3	0	20
Oklahoma	146	4	7	0	8
Oregon	83	0	0	0	0
Pacific Basin	54	1	0	0	1
Pennsylvania	459	0	11	0	7
Puerto Rico	30	0	1	1	2
Rhode Island	36	1	0	0	3
South Carolina	123	0	2	0	0
South Dakota	32	0	0	0	0
Tennessee	231	5	3	1	1
Texas	680	14	1	1	1



2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	In Special Education Program	Transferred to Regular Education	Graduated with Regular Diploma	Received a Certificate	Reached Maximum Age for Part B Services
Utah	120	2	1	3	2
Vermont	28	0	1	0	0
Virgin Islands	20	0	1	0	2
Virginia	183	0	6	4	6
Washington	234	5	8	0	12
West Virginia	96	0	0	1	1
Wisconsin	135	6	0	5	5
Wyoming	35	2	0	0	1
<b>National Total</b>	<b>9304</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>231</b>

**Part B Exiting Status (Part 2 of 2)**

State	Died	Moved: Known to be Continuing	Dropped Out	Unknown/ Missing	State Total
Alabama	0	2	0	0	190
Alaska	0	0	0	0	25
Arizona	3	2	0	0	223
Arkansas	4	6	8	0	211
California	1	112	22	0	1053
Colorado	2	11	2	0	149
Connecticut	0	1	0	0	58
Delaware	0	0	0	0	67
District of Columbia	0	0	0	0	20
Florida	0	1	0	0	582
Georgia	2	5	10	0	290
Hawaii	1	0	0	0	62
Idaho	0	0	1	0	56
Illinois	1	7	7	0	371
Indiana	3	10	14	2	232
Iowa	0	1	0	0	85
Kansas	0	0	0	0	91
Kentucky	0	2	7	0	132
Louisiana	2	0	0	0	97
Maine	3	1	0	0	44
Maryland	1	0	0	0	183
Massachusetts	0	3	1	0	250
Michigan	7	4	0	0	352
Minnesota	6	7	0	0	384
Mississippi	3	0	1	0	66
Missouri	8	18	7	1	253
Montana	1	0	0	0	49
Nebraska	0	1	0	1	102
Nevada	1	4	4	4	112
New Hampshire	2	0	0	0	78
New Jersey	0	0	1	0	207
New Mexico	0	1	2	0	125

2017 National Deaf-Blind Child Count Summary (Ages Birth – 21)

State	Died	Moved: Known to be Continuing	Dropped Out	Unknown/ Missing	State Total
New York	0	0	0	0	372
North Carolina	2	6	1	0	279
North Dakota	0	0	1	1	31
Ohio	3	0	1	0	442
Oklahoma	3	3	0	6	177
Oregon	0	0	1	0	84
Pacific Basin	2	0	0	0	58
Pennsylvania	4	6	2	0	489
Puerto Rico	1	8	0	0	43
Rhode Island	0	0	2	0	42
South Carolina	0	0	3	0	128
South Dakota	0	0	0	0	32
Tennessee	5	12	12	0	270
Texas	0	0	0	0	697
Utah	5	3	3	0	139
Vermont	0	1	0	0	30
Virgin Islands	0	0	0	0	23
Virginia	2	6	0	0	207
Washington	0	6	10	3	278
West Virginia	0	0	0	1	99
Wisconsin	0	0	6	0	157
Wyoming	0	1	0	0	39
<b>National Total</b>	78	251	129	19	10315

## References

Herbster, H. (2015). *Special education eligibility and the category of deafblindness: Examining the perspectives of case coordinators*. [Dissertation]. Retrieved from <https://etd.ohiolink.edu/>

U.S. Department of Education. (2017a). *IDEA Part C Child Count and Settings* [Data file]. Retrieved July 2018 from <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/osepidea/618-data/static-tables/index.html>

U.S. Department of Education. (2017b). *IDEA Part B child count and educational environments* [Data file]. Retrieved July 2018 from <http://www2.ed.gov/programs/osepidea/618-data/static-tables/index.html>

Malloy, P., & Killoran, J. (2007). Children who are deaf-blind. *Practice Perspectives - Highlighting Information on Deaf-Blindness*. Monmouth, OR: National Consortium on Deaf-Blindness (NCDB), Teaching Research Institute, Western Oregon University. Retrieved from <https://nationaldb.org/library/page/2064>

McCormick, M. (2015). New to deafblindness? Five tips for administrators. *TX SENSEABILITIES*, Spring/Summer 2015, 10-13. Retrieved from <http://www.tsbvi.edu/new-to-deafblindness-five-tips-for-administrators>

Mueller, E. (2006). *Deaf-blind child counts: Issues and challenges*. Alexandria, VA: Project Forum at NASDSE. Retrieved from [http://nasdse.org/DesktopModules/DNNspot-Store/ProductFiles/25\\_b77a012d-78ff-40ca-87e7-03bb13784ba4.pdf](http://nasdse.org/DesktopModules/DNNspot-Store/ProductFiles/25_b77a012d-78ff-40ca-87e7-03bb13784ba4.pdf)

Purvis, B. & Schalock, M.D. (2014). Using evidence-based strategies and technical assistance to improve identification of infants and toddlers with combined vision and hearing loss. *Visual Impairment and Deafblind Education Quarterly*, 59(5), 20-24.

Schalock, M.D. (2017). *The 2016 National Child Count of Children and Youth who are Deaf-Blind*. Monmouth, OR: National Center on Deaf-Blindness, The Research Institute, Western Oregon University. Retrieved from <https://nationaldb.org/reports/national-child-count-2016>

## Contact Information

Questions may be directed to Robbin Bull at [bullr@wou.edu](mailto:bullr@wou.edu).

Digital copies of this, and earlier years of the report may be accessed or downloaded from: <https://nationaldb.org/library/page/2199>