



Background

- * To improve early intervention (EI) systems, practices, and outcomes for children and families, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) has required states to implement State Systemic Improvement Plans (SSIP).
- * This study describes the patterns and trends in states' SSIP progress.

State Systemic Improvement Plans

- * The SSIP is a comprehensive, multi-year three-phase plan to improve results for infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families.
- * **Phase I & II:** States (I) analyzed data to identify the problem and their state identified measurable result (SiMR) as the focus of their improvement plan and (II) developed their implementation and evaluation plans.
- * **Phase III:** States are implementing and evaluating their improvement efforts.
- * **April 2017:** States reported on their progress during the first year of Phase III SSIP implementation (FFY 2015), consistent with their evaluation plans developed in Phase II.

Methods

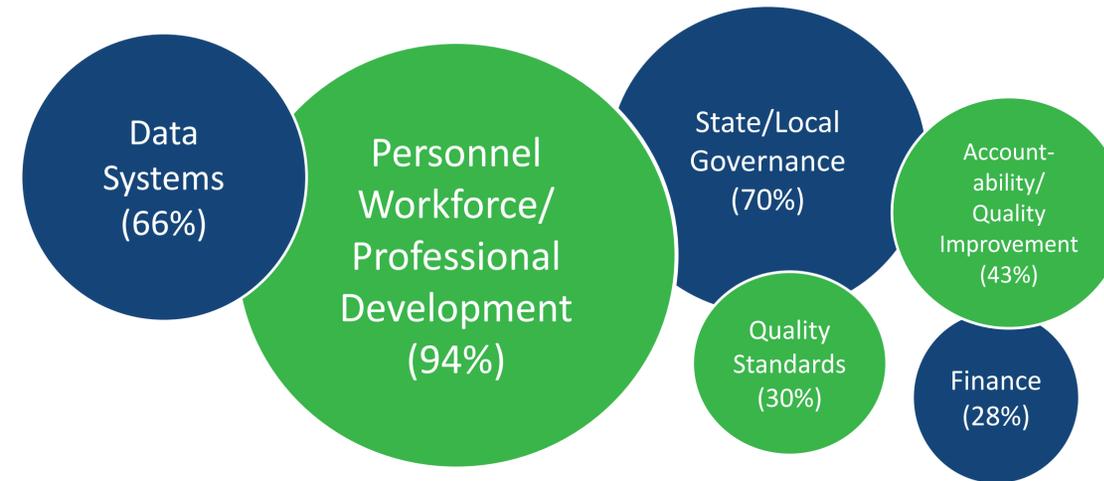
- * **Sample:** All 55 states and territories that provide EI services for children from birth through 2 years.
- * **Data source:** Phase III Year 1 SSIP reports for EI.
- * **Data analysis:** Reports were reviewed and coded to describe progress, trends and future needs for research and technical assistance. Two coders reviewed each document and disagreements were reconciled.

Overall Progress

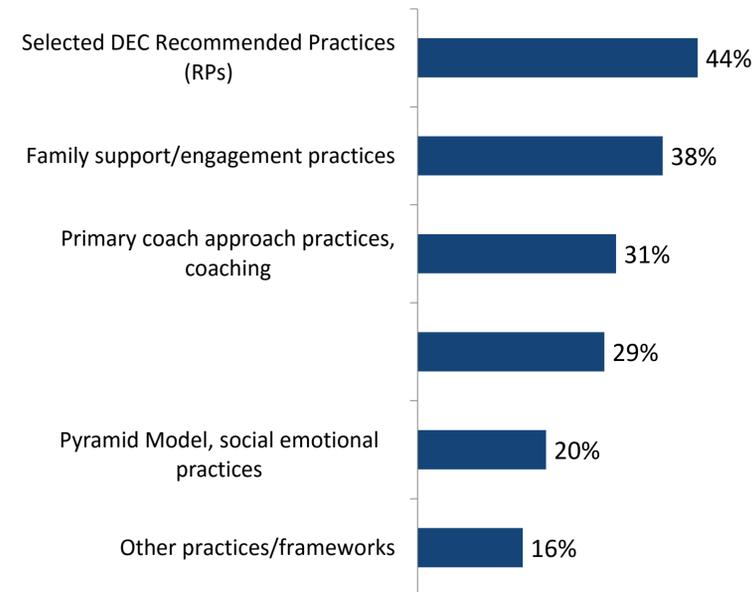
- * 45% of states reported making some measurable progress on their SiMR.
- * 96% reported that they implemented infrastructure improvement activities.
- * 89% reported implementing activities to improve practices.

Findings

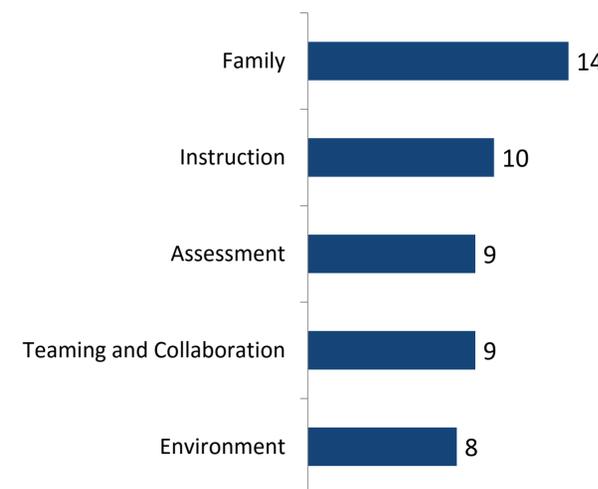
States are implementing improvements to various components of their infrastructure



States are implementing a variety of evidence-based practices

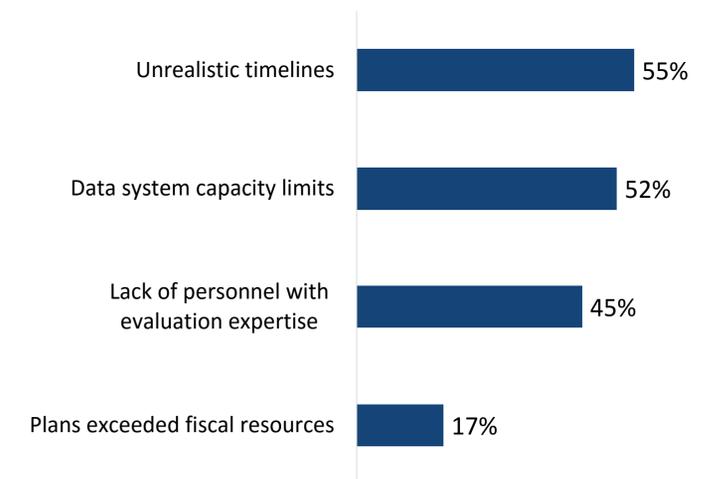


Family Practices were the most common DEC Recommended Practices reported (# of states)



Common barriers to implementation included changes in state leadership (50% of states), personnel shortages or unprepared personnel (48%), plans that exceeded fiscal resources (46%), and overambitious timelines (42%).

Most states (N = 29) reported barriers to evaluating SSIP implementation



Discussion

- * With increased attention to systemic improvement, and given that these are long-term plans that set the stage for state policy, this is an ideal time to establish and strengthen existing partnerships between the EI research community and state agencies.

Discussion Questions

- * Have you been involved or aware of EI's State Systemic Improvement Planning work in your state?
- * Are you surprised by the infrastructure improvements or evidence based practices states are implementing?
- * How can we support state agencies in building capacity to conduct internal evaluation?
- * What are strategies to help states overcome their implementation and evaluation barriers?

The full report on the SSIP analysis is available at:
<https://osep.grads360.org/#communities/pdc/documents/14724>