

SPP/APR Family Outcomes Writing Examples

December 2022

Describe the analysis of the response rate including any nonresponse bias that was identified, and the steps taken to reduce any identified bias and promote response from a broad cross section of families that received Part C services.

***NOTE:** The OSEP document, *FFY 2020 SPP/APR Part C OMB Package Changes Overview* states, “Analyze the response rate to identify potential nonresponse bias and take steps to reduce any identified bias and promote response from a broad cross-section of respondents.”

The statewide response rate for this year’s family outcomes survey is 65%. White families had the highest response rates (78%), followed by American Indian or Alaska Native families (67%), African American or Black families (50%), Asian families (42%), and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander families (40%). White and American Indian or Alaska Native family response rates are above the statewide percent while African American or Black, Asian and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander family response rates are below the statewide percent.

There is indication of nonresponse bias since African American or Black, Asian and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander family response rates are below the statewide percent.

The steps we will take to reduce identified bias and promote response from a broad cross section of families are the following:

- Reduce the time it takes to complete the survey by eliminating unnecessary questions.
- Implement a mixed mode method. Three attempts will be made by mail followed by phone calls. Phone calls will be attempted at various times of the day. A maximum of seven phone call attempts will be made.
- Track the disposition (result) of the mail and phone attempts to determine reasons why we do not receive completed surveys from families.
- Work with the Parent Information Center and trusted community partners to message the purpose and importance of completing the survey.

NOTE: You will have to analyze response rates, representativeness, and survey implementation data before you list the steps to reduce identified bias and promote response from a broad cross section of families.

Include the State’s analysis of the extent to which the demographics of the families responding are representative of the demographics of infants, toddlers, and families enrolled in the Part C program.

Representativeness was analyzed by comparing percentage of families enrolled in Part C by race and ethnicity by the percentage of surveys received by race and ethnicity (within each subgroup).

The distribution of families in Part C shows the following: White families had the highest percentage in Part C (56%), followed by African American or Black families (25%), Asian families (7%), American Indian or Alaska Native families (6%), More than one race families (4%), and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander families (2%).

White families had the highest representation in surveys received (61%), followed by African American or Black families (20%), American Indian or Alaska Native families (10%), Asian families (5%), More than one race families (3%), and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander families (2%).

African American or Black families, American Indian or Alaska Native families, Asian families, and White families were under-represented in the surveys received. Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander and More than one race families were represented in the surveys received.

The ECTA response rate and representativeness calculator, which applies proportional testing, was utilized to determine if the surveys received were representative of the target population. The results show that African American or Black families were under-represented (-5% difference), American Indian or Alaska Native families were over-represented (4% difference), Asian families were under-represented (-2% difference), and White families were over-represented (5% difference). Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander families (-1% difference) and more than one race families (0% difference) were represented in the survey.

Describe the metric used to determine representativeness (e.g., +/- 3% discrepancy, age of the infant or toddler, and geographic location in the proportion of responders compared to target group).

The metric varied due to using a statistical formula (i.e., proportional testing) to determine if two percentages are different from each other. The ECTA Response Rate and Representativeness calculator, which applies proportional testing, was utilized to determine if the surveys received were representative of the target population (i.e., families enrolled in the Part C program). The ECTA response rate and representativeness calculator, which applies proportional testing, was utilized to determine if the surveys received were representative of the target population. The results show that African American or Black families were under-represented (-5% difference), American Indian or Alaska Native families were over-represented (4% difference), Asian families were under-represented (-2% difference), and White families were over-represented (5% difference). Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander families (-1% difference) and more than one race families (0% difference) were represented in the survey.

OR IF NOT USING STATISTICAL TESTING

Representativeness was analyzed by examining the number of families enrolled in the Part C program by race and ethnicity with the number of families who responded to the survey by race and ethnicity. Representativeness was determined by using a +/-1% threshold. The results show that African American or Black families were under-represented (-5% difference), Asian families were under-represented (-2% difference), American Indian or Alaska Native families were over-represented (4% difference), and White families were over-represented (5% difference) in the survey. Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander families (-1% difference) and more than one race families (0% difference) were represented in the survey.

*NOTES:

1. These writing examples are based off the example data in the ECTA Response Rate and Representativeness calculator. **Make sure to revise according to your data.**
2. These writing examples are intended to support states in writing their SPP APR C4 prompts. These examples can be incorporated, supplement, or assist with clarity with the state responses.

Suggested Citation

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About Us

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