

2021 State of the States Brief: The COVID-19 Pandemic as Captured by Part C and Part B 619 Data Systems

Authors: Lauren Jackson, Nancy Perez & Betsy Mercier

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Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic presented unique challenges for states' Part C and Part B 619 data collection and reporting. The spring 2021 State of the States survey provides a snapshot of the types of data states and territories were able to collect during the early stage of the pandemic (between late 2020 and early 2021) and how they collected the data. Lessons learned from the pandemic can help states improve data collection around telehealth services and prepare for future data disruptions, such as natural disasters.

Key findings

- Most Part C programs (59%) were able to collect data on remote services delivered **through their state data system**. Slightly over half the Part B 619 programs were able to collect these data either through their data system (29%) or other methods (33%).
- Programs **often used methods other than state data systems** (e.g., surveys, local systems) to collect data on family decisions, access to devices/internet, and changes in COVID-19 restrictions.
- More than half of the states and territories (Part C: 65%; Part B 619: 52%) **made changes to their state data systems** in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Common changes to state data systems were **adding new data elements** (primarily quantitative and some open-ended items) and **adding response options to existing data elements**.

About the Survey

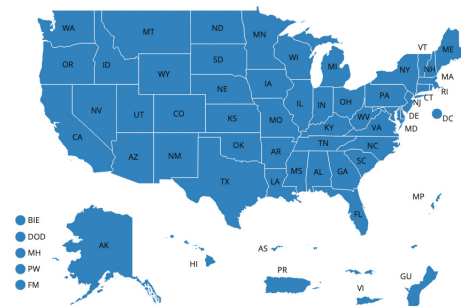
Since 2013, the DaSy Center has tracked the status of Part C and Part B 619 state data systems to provide a national picture of the capacities of the systems, track how those capacities are changing over time, and understand states' technical assistance needs. In spring 2021, DaSy collected comprehensive information using an online survey developed in collaboration with the IDEA Infant and Toddler Coordinators Association for Part C programs and a parallel survey for Part B 619 programs. DaSy received responses from Part C program staff in 49 states and territories (94%) and from Part B 619 program staff in 48 states and territories (92%).

About DaSy

The DaSy Center (DaSy) provides high-quality technical assistance to build the capacity of states to collect, report, analyze, and use data in IDEA's early childhood programs.

Interested in learning more?

Visit the DaSy website to access the [data for all survey items](#) and to see the data by state/territory on the [State of the States maps](#).



This brief is the first in a series highlighting key findings from 2021 the survey. The data in this brief represent responses from state staff in the 50 U.S. states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.

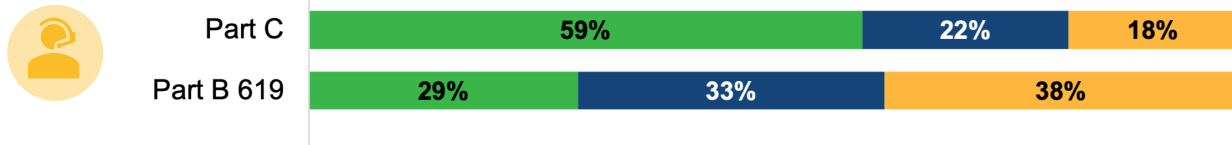
Data Collection During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Part C and Part B 619 programs had to adapt quickly, in response to COVID-19 disruptions, to collect information about remote service delivery. As shown below, programs varied in their use of state data systems to collect new data elements. To collect some data elements, states used other data collection methods (e.g., surveys, local systems) more often than their state data systems. The figure below provides a snapshot of data collection during the pandemic.

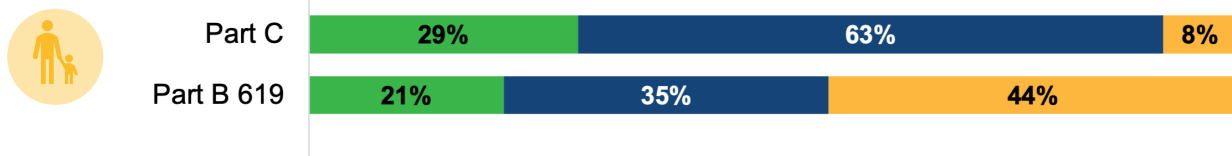
Percentage of programs able to collect pandemic-related data elements between late 2020 to early 2021



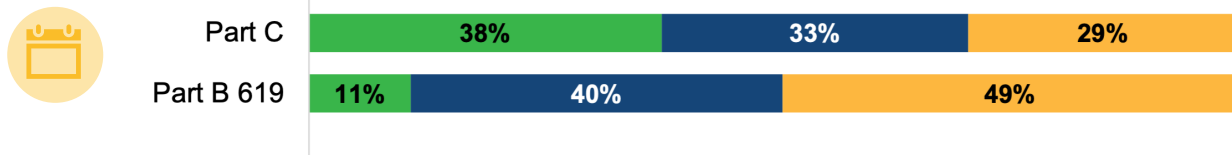
Remote services delivered



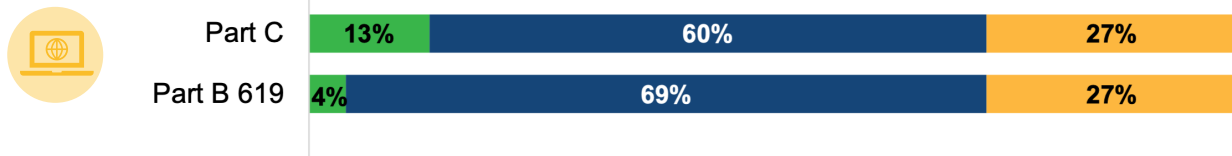
Family decisions about willingness and/or ability to engage in services



Availability of service providers



Access to devices/internet to engage in remote services



Changes in COVID-19 openings/closings/restrictions at the local program level



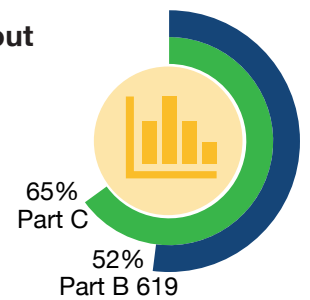
Changes to State Data Systems

In response to COVID-19 disruptions, **more than half** of the states and territories made changes to their state data systems.

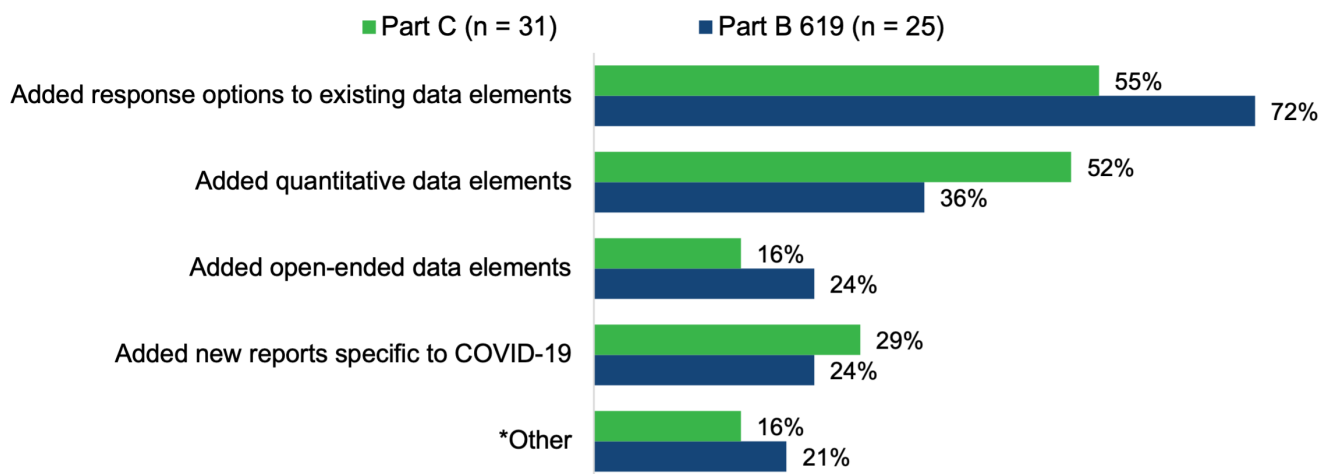
The most common types of changes were **adding response options to existing data elements** and **adding new data elements** (primarily quantitative and some open-ended items). Many states and territories made **multiple types of changes** to their state data systems.

Most Part C and about half of Part B 619

programs made changes to their state data systems in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Types of changes states and territories made to their data systems



Note. Percentages do not add to 100% because states and territories made multiple types of changes.

***Examples of Other changes:** enabling electronic signatures; adding telehealth codes; revising existing reports; adding parent portals.

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The DaSy Center is a national technical assistance center funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. The DaSy Center works with states to support IDEA early intervention and early childhood special education state programs in the development or enhancement of coordinated early childhood longitudinal data systems.

To learn more about the DaSy Center, visit <http://www.dasycenter.org/>.



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