

SPP/APR Submission Guidance

Sampling for Indicators C3: Early Childhood Outcomes, B7: Preschool Outcomes, and C4: Family Outcomes



October 2024

Part C Guidance

SPP/APR instructions for the current federal fiscal year provide details about sampling for Indicators C3: Early Childhood Outcomes and C4: Family Outcomes. The [FFY Part C SPP/APR Package](#) General Instructions for Indicators C3 and C4 provide this guidance:

When sampling is used, a description of the sampling methodology outlining how the design will yield valid and reliable estimates must be submitted to OSEP as a sampling plan. The description must describe the:

- (a) Sampling procedures followed (e.g., random/stratified, forms validation); and
- (b) Similarity or differences of the sample to the population of children with disabilities in the early intervention program (e.g., how all aspects of the population, such as disability category, race, age, gender, family income, etc., will be represented).

The description must also include how the Lead Agency addresses any problems with:

- (a) Response rates; (b) missing data; and/or (c) selection bias.

Samples from EIS programs must be representative of each of the EIS programs sampled, considering such variables as:

- (a) Eligibility definition (diagnosed condition or developmental delay); (b) age; (c) race; (d) gender; and (e) family income.

In reporting on the performance of small EIS programs, the Lead Agency shall not report to the public or the Secretary any information on performance that would result in the disclosure of personally identifiable information about individual children or where the available data are insufficient to yield statistically reliable information, i.e., numbers are too small.

Also, if a State will use its currently approved sampling plan and only change the years for which it is used, the State can provide an assurance to this effect. If a State proposes to use a sampling plan that was not previously used/approved or will revise its current sampling plan, the State must submit the sampling plan for approval.

Part B Guidance

Similarly, the [FFY Part B SPP/APR Package](#) General Instructions provide guidance for Part B indicators that permit sampling, including B7: Preschool Outcomes, as follows:

When sampling is used, a description of the sampling methodology outlining how the design will yield valid and reliable estimates must be submitted to OSEP as a sampling plan. The description must describe the:

- (a) Sampling procedures followed (e.g., random/stratified, forms validation); and

- (b) Similarity or differences of the sample to the population of children with disabilities (e.g., how all aspects of the population, such as disability category, race, age, gender, family income, etc., will be represented).

The description must also include how the SEA addresses any problems with:

- (a) Response rates; (b) missing data; and/or (c) selection bias.

Samples from LEAs must be representative of each of the LEAs sampled, considering such variables as:

- (a) Disability categories; (b) age; (c) race; (d) gender; and (e) family income.

If a State chooses to sample LEAs:

- All LEAs with average daily memberships of over 50,000 must be included in the sample.
- States have the option of sampling within some LEAs and using a census (i.e., obtaining data from the total targeted population) in other LEAs. Relative to small districts, the State shall not report to the public or the Secretary any information on performance that would result in the disclosure of personally identifiable information about individual children or where the available data are insufficient to yield statistically reliable information, i.e., numbers are too small.

For indicators that permit sampling, the Lead Agency must include in its report on the performance of EIS programs:

- The most recently available performance data on each EIS program and
- The date the data were obtained.

If a Lead Agency is using sampling for one or more indicators, the Lead Agency must:

- Sample on the performance of each EIS program on each of those indicators at least once during the period of FFYs 2020 - 2025.
- Collect data from a representative sample of EIS programs each year in order to report on State performance annually. If a State will use its currently approved sampling plan and only change the years for which it is used, the State can provide an assurance to this effect.
- Submit the sampling plan for approval if proposing to use a sampling plan that was not previously used/approved or will revise its current sampling plan.

Note: States are encouraged to work in collaboration with their OSEP-funded TA centers when developing a sampling plan.

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