

The Nebraska Family Survey

What is the Nebraska Family Survey?

The Nebraska Family Survey is sent to families of children with developmental delays or disabilities ages birth to 3 who are served through the Early Development Network. The survey results are used to calculate the percent of families participating in Part C who report that Early Intervention Services have helped their family:

- a. Know their rights
- b. Effectively communicate their children's needs; and
- c. Help their children develop and learn.

The three percentages, one for each outcome, are reported in the state's Part C Annual Performance Report.

How is the Survey Composed?

The Nebraska Family Survey has two parts: (1) The **Family-Centered Services Scale (FCSS)** consists of items 1-29 of the survey; and (2) The Impact of Early Intervention Services on Your Family Scale, also known by the shorter name of the **Impact on Family Scale (IFS)**, consists of items 30-53.

How is the Percent on the Indicator Determined for Each Family Outcome Area?

The state uses a well-established measurement framework to analyze families' responses to the items. One of the principles of this framework is that people have a higher probability of agreeing with "easier" items and a lower probability of agreeing with "harder" items. Returning to our three indicators above, based on National as well as Nebraska data, we find that the percent of families participating in Part C who report that early intervention services helped their family:

- ❖ ***Know their rights.*** In order to qualify as reporting "that early intervention services helped them" to achieve this outcome, families had to have an overall score on the survey of **538.9 (Indicator 4A)**.
- ❖ ***Effectively communicate their children's needs.*** In order to qualify as reporting "that early intervention services helped them" to achieve this outcome, families had to have an overall score on the survey of **555.9**. This higher score indicates that it is somewhat harder to agree with this item (**Indicator 4B**).
- ❖ ***Help their children develop and learn.*** In order to qualify as reporting "that early intervention services helped them" to achieve this outcome, families had to have an overall score on the survey of **516.1**. This lower score indicates that it is slightly easier to agree with this Indicator (**Indicator 4C**).

How is Nebraska doing?

- ❖ Over the past 4 years, across all families, the average score for the Impact on Family scale (IFS) has **continued to rise**.
- ❖ In the past year, the IFS **rose** about 14 points on the measurement scale ranging from 200 to 800.
- ❖ The average score for the Family-Centered Services Scale (FCSS) **rose over** 13 points in the past year.
- ❖ The 2011-12 results show that the state has **exceeded** its targets for Indicators 4A, 4B and 4C.
- ❖ In 2011-12, the survey return rate was **strong** (approximately 63%).