



Massachusetts Department of Public Health

An Overview of the Massachusetts IDEA Part C /Early Intervention System

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Overview

- What is Part C? Why is it important?
- How does Part C work in Massachusetts?
- Successes of Part C in Massachusetts
- Key Priorities for FY24



What is Part C? Why is it important?

- Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is the program for infants and toddlers with disabilities
- Part C was created to:



Enhance the development of infants and toddlers with disabilities and minimize potential developmental delay



Maximize the potential for individuals with disabilities to live independently



Reduce educational costs by minimizing the need for special education and other services for children



Enhance capacity for families to meet the special needs of their infants and toddlers with disabilities



Enhance capacity of state and local agencies to identify, evaluate, and meet the needs of all children

How does Part C work in MA?



How does Part C work in MA?



What is Referral?

Referral is simple

- Potentially eligible child is connected to early intervention program(s)
- Inquiries returned within 14 days
- No prescription or insurance authorization needed
- Overview of early intervention
- Discussion of:
 - Medical & developmental history
 - Family Rights & Procedural Safeguards

Find your local EI program

Please sort or search on this list by city/town name (not zip code) to find your local EI program.

Search by city/town name

Show entries

Search:

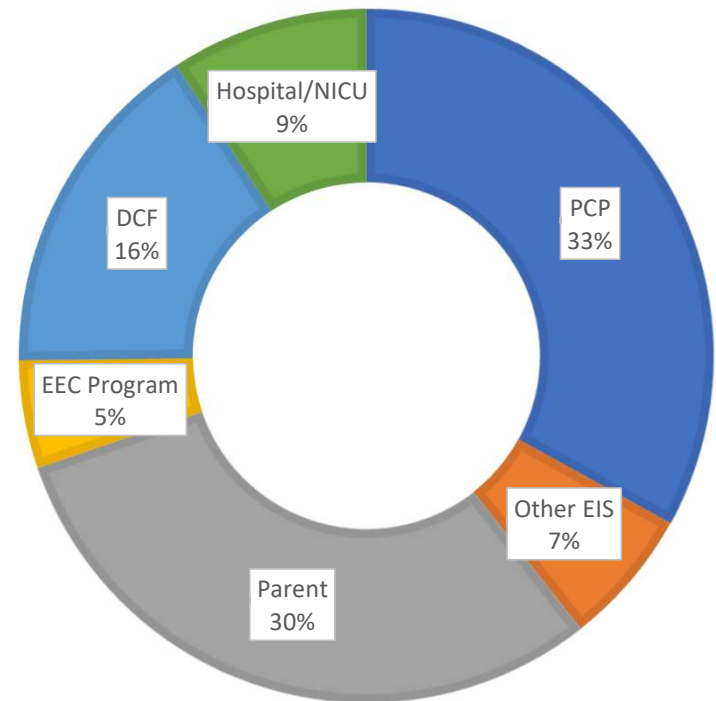
	Program Name	Phone Number	Website
+	Bay Cove Early Intervention	617-371-3010	https://www.baycovehumanservices.org/early-inte...
+	Boston Children's Hospital Early Intervention Program	617-919-7872	https://www.childrenshospital.org/about-us/loca...
+	Criterion Boston Early Intervention Program	617-469-3080	https://www.criterionchild.com/index.php/progra...
+	Dimock Early Intervention Program	617-442-8800	https://dimock.org/service/child-and-family-ser...
+	Harbor Area Early Intervention/North Suffolk Mental Health	617-569-6560	http://northsuffolk.org/services/early-childhoo...

Showing 1 to 5 of 6 entries (filtered from 59 total entries)

Previous **1** 2 Next

Who Refers to Part C?

- Physicians are most common referral source
- Parents often self-refer
- Department of Children & Families refers under Child Abuse Prevention & Treatment Act



Week ending 9/30/23

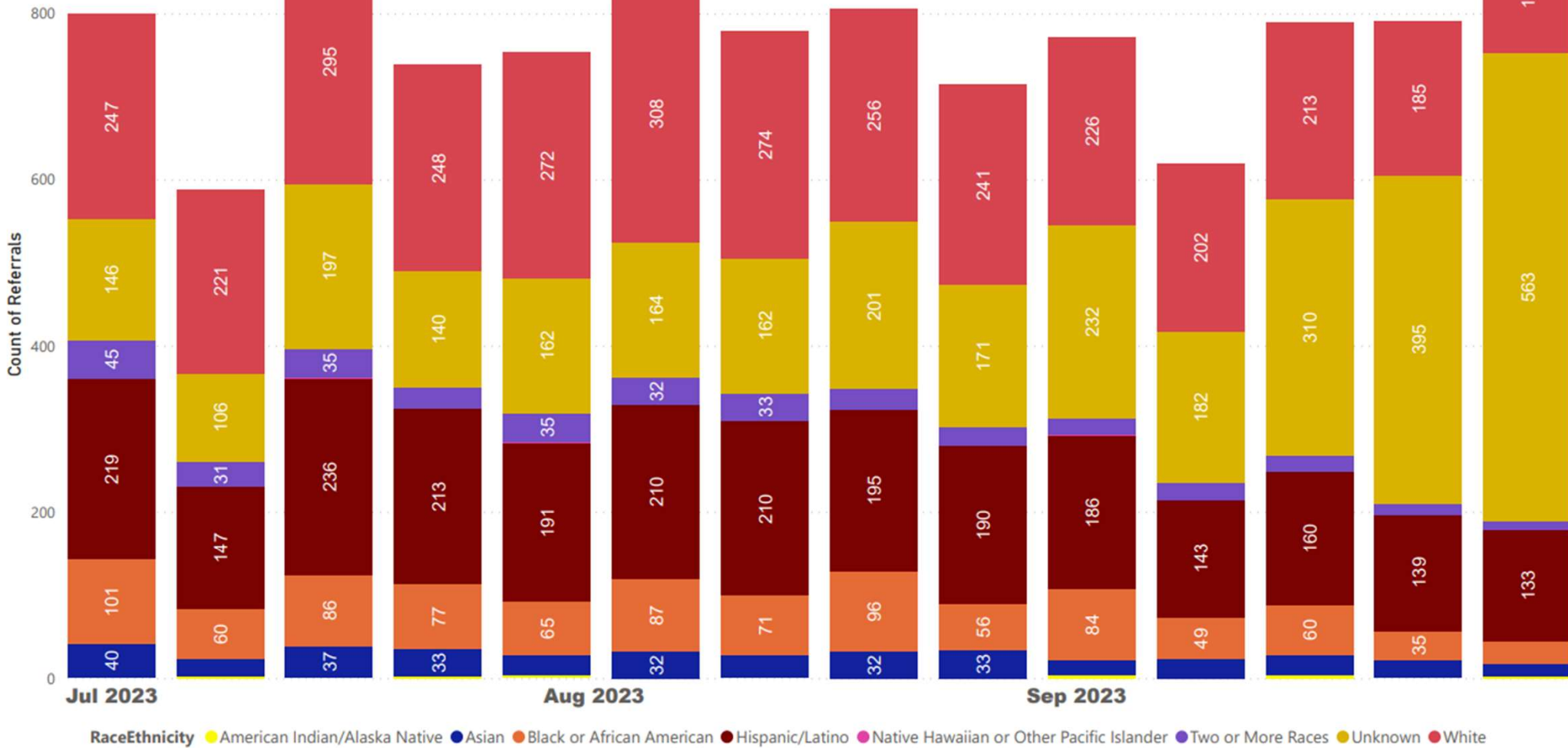
Fiscal Year

2024

Count of Referrals by Week

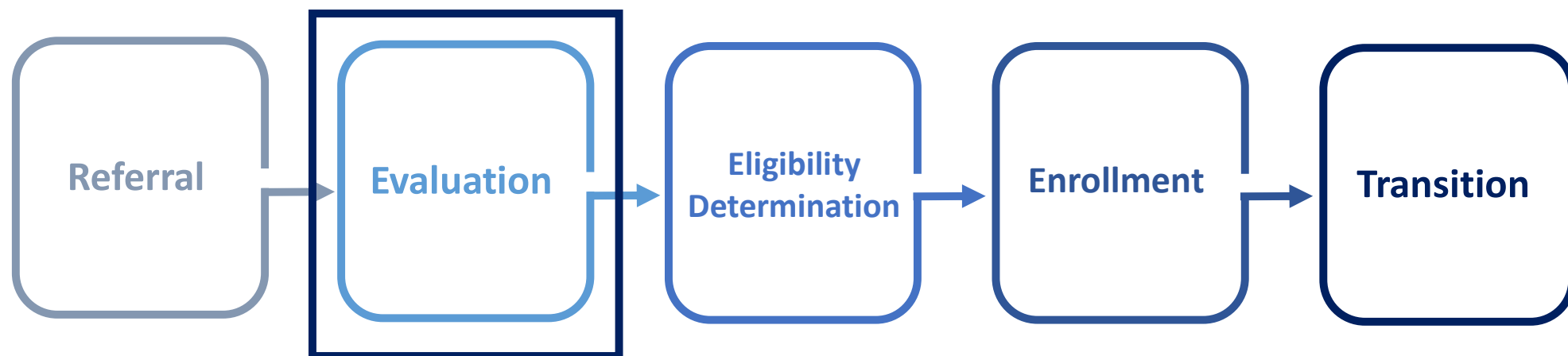
Data Through Week Ending

Saturday, September 30, 2023





How does Part C work in MA?



What Happens During an Evaluation?

Evaluate child's current skills:

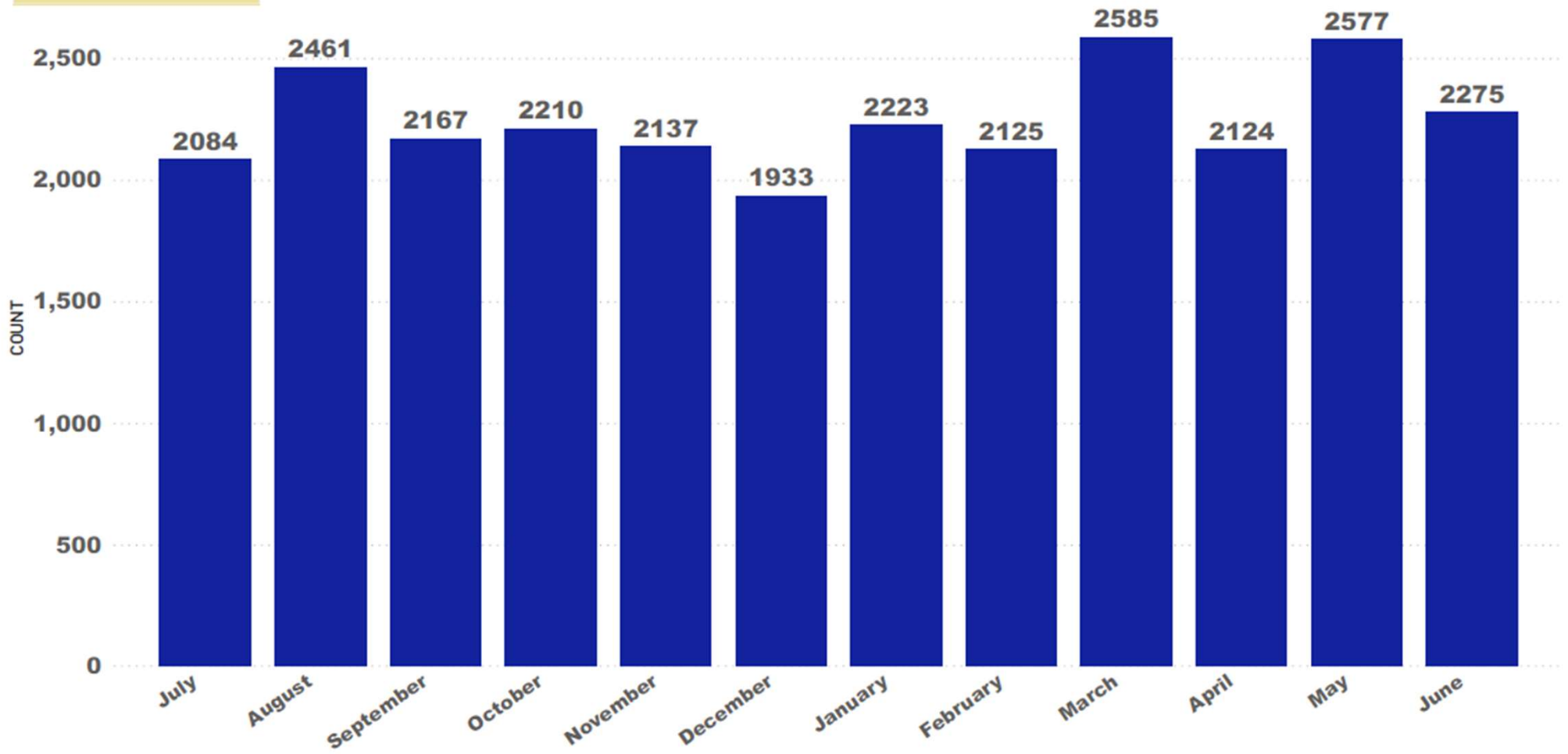
- Review of child's medical and developmental records
- A multi-disciplinary team of certified early interventionists administer a standardized tool
- Evaluation occurs face-to-face in the child's natural environment and incorporates family routines
- Voluntary assessment of risk factors



Fiscal Year

2023

Initial Evaluations Count by Month



How does Part C work in MA?



Who is Eligible for Early Intervention?

Four Categories of Eligibility:

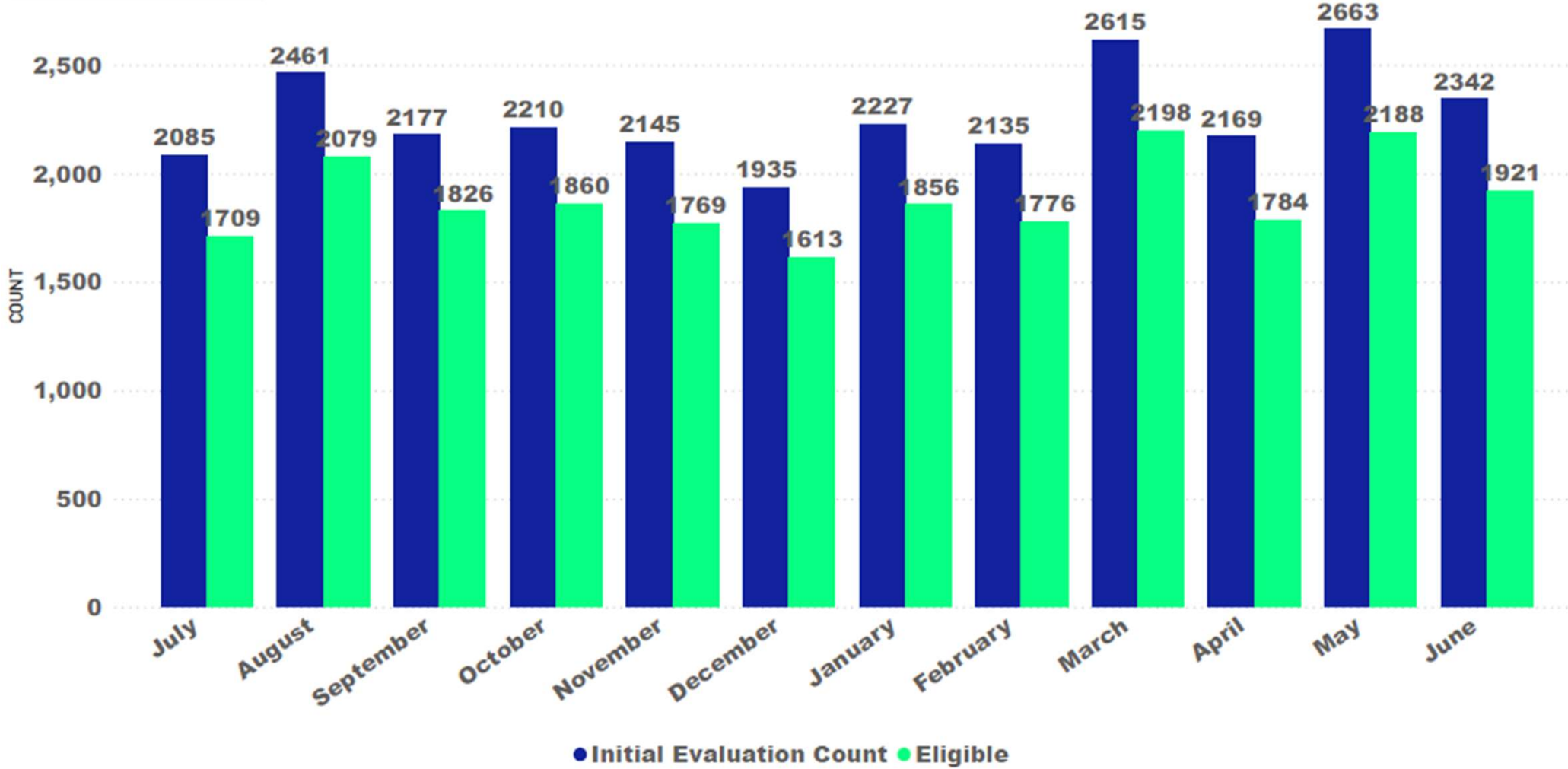
1. Established Conditions
2. Established Developmental Delays
3. At-Risk for Developmental Delay
4. Clinical Judgement



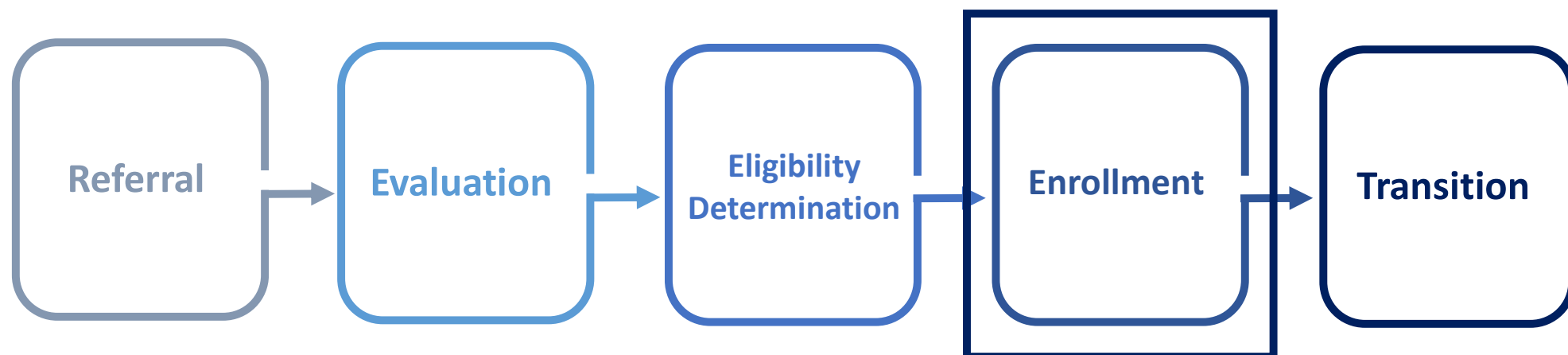
Fiscal Year

2023

Initial Evaluations and Eligible Count by Month



How does Part C work in MA?



Quick Facts About Enrolling in Part C

Who does EI serve?



Serves **infants and toddlers** from birth to age 3 and **their families**

What is the cost of EI services?



Services are **free of charge** for families

Who provides EI services?




Services are offered at **59 EI services programs** and **20 Specialty service programs**

How Does a Family Enroll in Early Intervention?

Families are part of the team:

- Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) developed collaboratively within 45-days of the parent's consent
- Written in family's native language
- Includes:
 - Current levels of development
 - Family priorities & concerns
 - Services designed to enhance the child's development and the capacity of the family to meet the child's needs
 - Measurable Outcomes

INDIVIDUALIZED FAMILY SERVICE PLAN		
<small>The Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) is a working document that outlines the Early Intervention (EI) services to be provided. The initial IFSP (based on a timely and comprehensive multidisciplinary evaluation and assessment) is completed within 45 days of referral. The plan is developed collaboratively among IFSP Team Members - including parents, caregivers, EI staff, Specialty Services Provider (SSP) staff and/or others, as needed. Participants in the development of the IFSP may also include community representatives, extended family members, and others as requested by the parent if feasible to do so. The EI Service Coordinator is responsible for implementing the plan, preparing for ongoing IFSP meetings, and meeting state and federal timelines.</small>		
	Child's Legal Name _____	Date of Birth _____ Gender _____
	Address _____	Primary Language _____
	Email _____	DPH ID# _____
	Change of Address _____	
		IFSP Team Members <small>(including family members, caregivers, EI and SSP providers and others)</small>

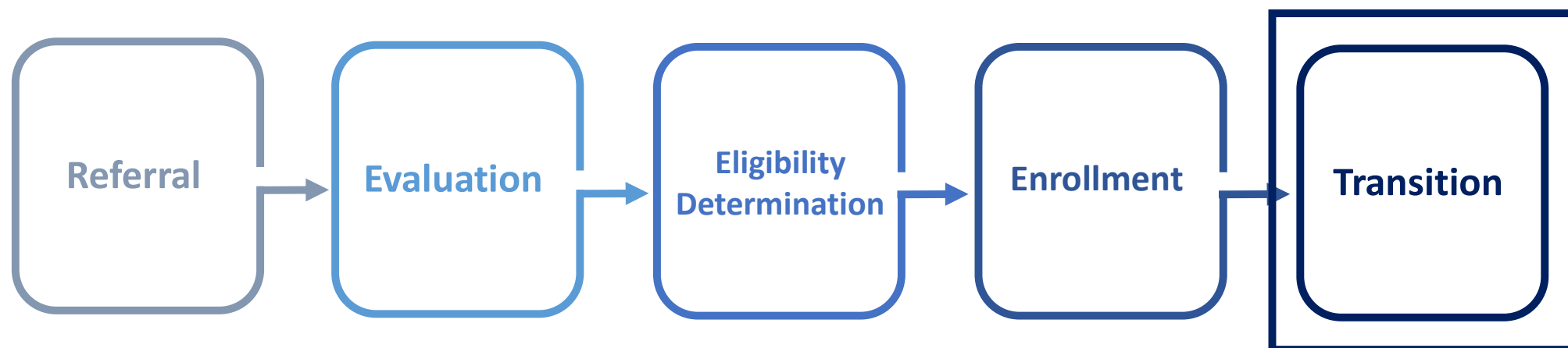
What do Early Intervention Services Look Like?

Families are partners:

- Intervention includes the child, caregiver, and early interventionist
- Dyadic relationship between caregiver & child
- Provided in natural setting for the child
- May include:
 - Physical therapy
 - Speech & language services
 - Early intensive behavioral intervention
 - Vision services



How Does Part C Work in MA?



What Happens When a Child Exits Early Intervention?

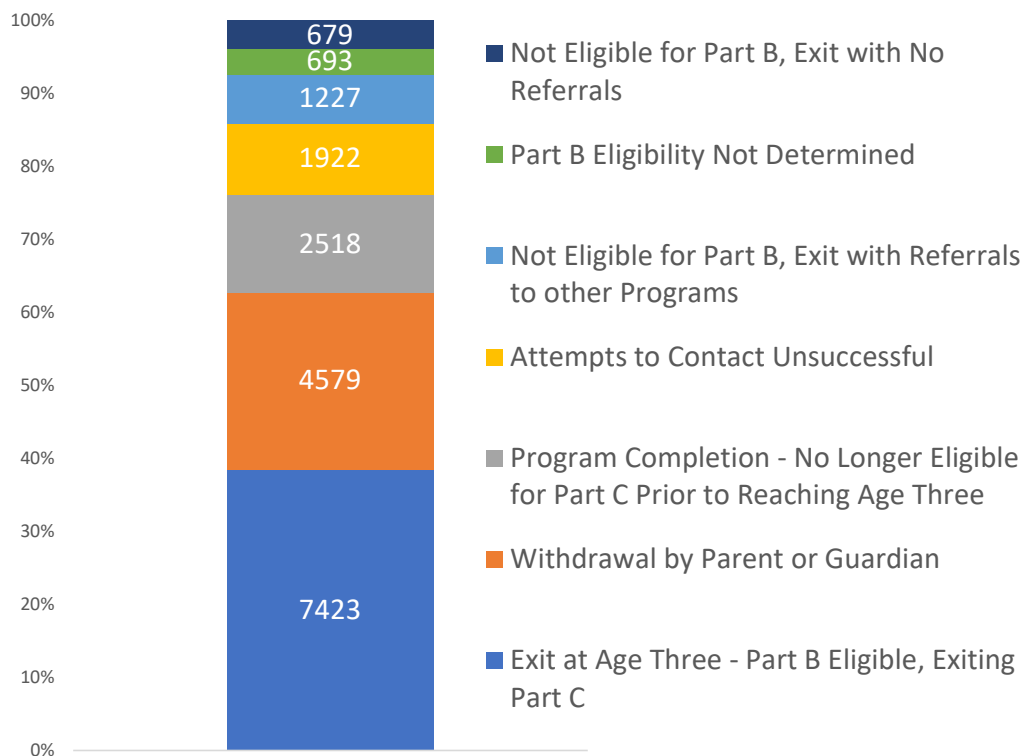
Transition is a warm hand-off:

- Guided by MOU on Early Childhood Transitions (Dept of Public Health, Dept of Early Education & Care, Dept of Elementary & Secondary Education)
- Transition plan with steps & services
- Transition conference
- Notification to local education agencies, community partners



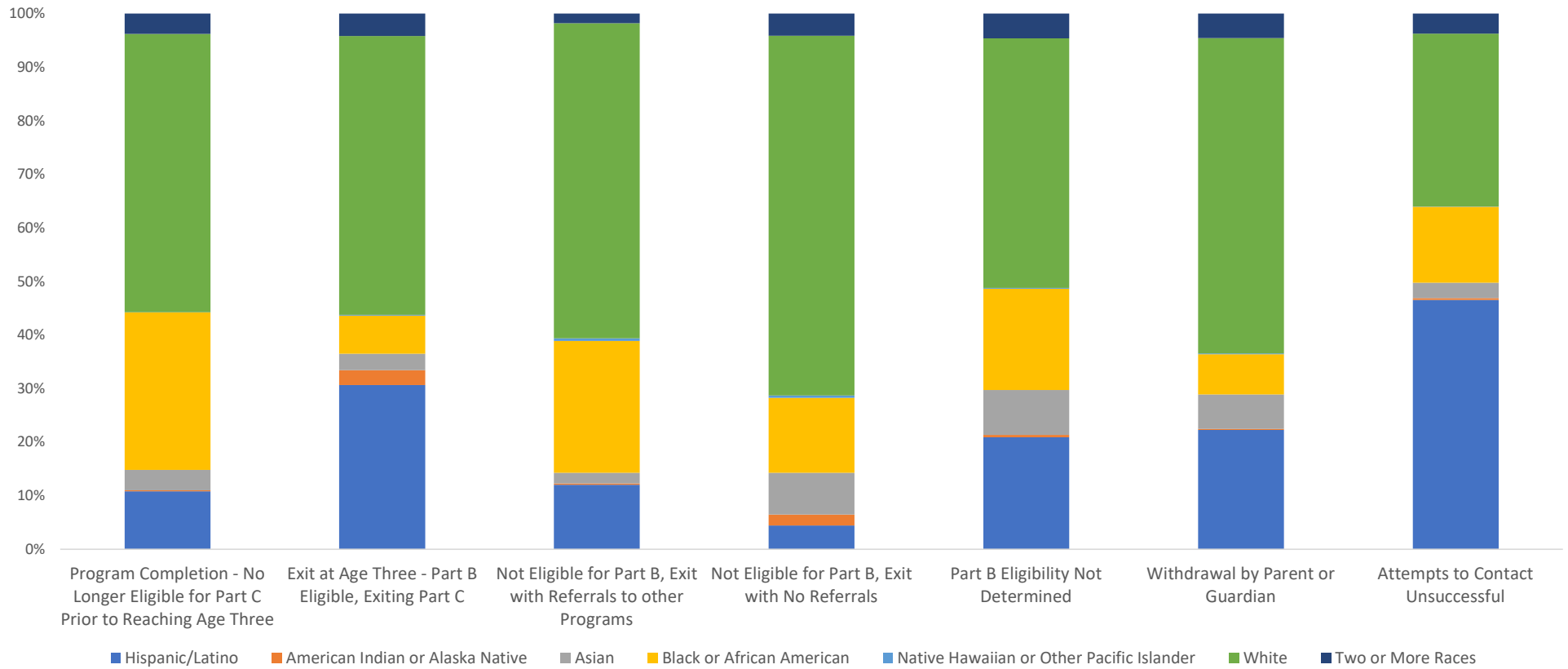
Why do Children Exit Part C?

- Most children exit at age 3 and transition to Part B services (DESE)
- 10% “Graduate” Part C before age 3



FY 23: July 1, 2022—June 30, 2023

Why do Children Exit Part C?



Successes—FY23 MA Part C System Highlights

41K

MA Part C served over **41,000 infants and toddlers**

90%

90% of families enrolled in EI reported that services helped their children's learning and development

80%

80% of children who entered EI below age-expectation **substantially increased their acquisition and use of knowledge and skills**

99%

99% of services were provided in the child's natural environment by embedding learning within their everyday routines

FY23 Budget Highlights and Financial Investments

\$48.7M



**Services for
infants and toddlers**

\$2.3M



**Data System
Upgrades**

\$488K



**Public Awareness
Program**

\$1.1M



**Trainings & Supports
for Providers**

EI Priorities for FY24



**Improve representativeness
of families responding to
outcomes survey**



Improve child outcomes



**Revise monitoring to
meet federal guidance**



Improve data quality



Thank you for the opportunity to present this information today.

Please direct any questions to:

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