

Family Outcome Data: What Do They Mean and How to Use Them

OSEP Part C Data Managers Meeting
Washington, DC
12 June 2008

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Goals for Today

- Review types of family outcome data that are collected
- Examine ways family outcome data can be used
- Provide examples of ways one state (Texas) will use data for program improvement

ECO Recommended Family Outcomes

ECO

- Understand their child's strengths, abilities, and special needs
- Know their rights and advocate effectively for their children
- Help their children develop and learn
- Have support systems
- Access desired services, programs, activities in their community

ECO Family Outcomes and OSEP APR Requirements [Part C]

ECO

- Understand their child's strengths, abilities, and special needs
- Know their rights and advocate effectively for their children
- Help their children develop and learn
- Have support systems
- Access desired services, programs, activities in their community

OSEP

- Percent of families participating in Part C who report that EI services have helped the family
 - Know their rights
 - Effectively communicate their children's needs
 - Help their children develop and learn

ECO Scale:

Family Outcomes Survey

- Three items for each of the five proposed family outcomes
- Each item rated on a scale from 1-7
- Descriptive statements for ratings of 1, 3, 5, 7
- Blanks left for “in between” ratings of 2, 4, 6
- Three additional items for states to use in responding to APR requirements (two versions, one for Part C, one for Part B)

Family Outcome Data: What do Mean?

- Different types of family outcome data
- Examine constructs that are common across measures
 - Family knowledge and ability
 - Social and community support
 - Perception of services

Family Knowledge and Ability

- Understanding child's development and special needs
- Knowing how to help child develop and learn
- Understanding rights
- Know about services that are available
- Comfortable working with early intervention professionals

Social and Community Support

- Have someone to talk to or call for help
- Able to do things together as a family
- Health and child care services are available
- Participate in the community

Perception of Services

- Early intervention helped me...
 - Know my rights
 - Effectively communicate child's needs
 - Help child develop and learn

Family Outcome Data: How to Use Them

- Examine state and local trends over time for each type of family outcome
- Identify child and family factors associated with types of family outcomes
- Examine the relationship between the quality, amount, and delivery of services and family outcomes

Examine Data over Time

- State and program level data
 - Overall means and standard deviations
 - Most and least variable items
 - Group families into 3 categories
 - Score of 5 or higher: Achieved family outcome
 - Score of 3 or 4: Room for improvement
 - Score of 1 or 2: Area of concern

Factors Associated with Family Outcomes

- Child variables
 - Eligibility category
 - Race and/or ethnicity
 - Age
 - Time in early intervention
- Family variables
 - Income
 - Work status
 - Language of the home

Service System Variables and Family Outcomes

- Delivery of services
 - Evaluate ways in which services are provided to families to determine if this affects family outcomes
- Quality and amount of services
 - Determine if quality and amount of services is associated with family outcomes

Background/Approach: Texas

- Service coordinators hand off survey to families
- Families mail survey back to State
- Response rate ~ 40%
- Selection of local programs
 - Year 1 – pilot, sample of 21 programs
 - Year 2 – all 58 programs
 - Year 3 – 29 programs

Using for Data for Program Improvement

- Improvement relative to what ?
- Multiple sources of influence
- Factors we can and cannot affect
- State and local program comparisons

Using for Data for Program Improvement

- Look at means across number of dimensions
- Look at categories of responses
 - % with response of 5 or higher: Achieved family outcome
 - % with response of 3 or 4: Room for improvement
 - % with response of 1 or 2: Area of concern

Look at Distribution of Responses by Program for One or More Questions

- For each local program, percent of families that responded with a 5 or higher on:
 - Family's ability to help child develop and learn
 - Extent to which early intervention helped family help child develop and learn

Look at Distribution of Low and High Responses by Program

- For each local program, percent of families that responded with 1 or 2 vs. 5 or higher on:
- Family's knowledge of programs and services

Locus of Change

- System-level
 - E.g., quality of service coordination
- Local program level
 - Ability to “own” change

THE END

SAFE TRAVELS