Data Agenda

Updated January 2017

ABOUT THE DATA AGENDA

The vision of the *Early Childhood Colorado Framework[1]* that all children are valued, healthy, and thriving can only be achieved through many partners working together through common efforts and shared accountability. The Early Childhood Colorado Partnership (ECCP) Data Agenda ensures the network and the many partners contributing to strong outcomes for children and families in Colorado continuously use population-level data to inform decision making and move the needle for families in our state.

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VISION

Ensure all Colorado children are valued, healthy and thriving.

MISSION

Advance the vision of the Early Childhood Colorado Framework statewide using a collective impact framework allowing cross-sector partners to improve early childhood system effectiveness.

Result

Children reach their developmental potential and are ready to succeed in school and in life.

Result

Adults are knowledgeable, responsible, and interact effectively with and on behalf of children.

Headline Indicator: Percentage of children, Kindergarten-3rd grade who have a significant reading deficiency
(Source: CDE, Office of Literacy)

Headline Indicator: Percentage of parents with children ages 1-8 who have concerns about child's emotions, concentration, behavior or ability to get along with others
(Source: CDPHE, Center for Health and Environmental Data, Child Health Survey)

> **Systems Performance Indicator**: Estimated number and percentage of 4-year olds eligible for Colorado Preschool Program or Head Start who were actually enrolled in either program
> (Source: CDE, Office of Early Learning and School Readiness)

> **Systems Performance Indicator**: Percentage of children accessing full-day Kindergarten
> (Source: CO KIDS Count, Annie E. Casey Foundation)

> **Systems Performance Indicator:** Percentage of parents asked by a health care provider to fill out a questionnaire about development, communication, or social behavior
> (Source: CDPHE, Center for Health and Environmental Data, Child Health Survey)

> **Systems Performance Indicator:** Colorado students receiving at least one out of school suspension, Kindergarten-3rd grade
> (Source: CDE)

Headline Indicator: Percentage of parents of children ages 0-8 reporting poor mental health days in the past month
(Source: CDPHE, Center for Health and Environmental Data, BRFSS)

> **Systems performance Indicator:** Percentage of women who state that a doctor, nurse or health care provider talked with them about what to do if they felt depressed during or after pregnancy
> (Source: CDPHE, Center for Health and Environmental Data, PRAMS)

> **Systems performance Indicator:** Percentage of professionals in PDIS working directly with young children achieving at each level of the Early Childhood Professional Credential
> (Source: CDHS, Colorado Shines)

Aligned with the results of the *Early Childhood Colorado Framework*, the Data Agenda was developed over several months through collaboration and coordination on behalf of many partners on the ECCP Data Action Team. Each indicator was thoroughly assessed and selected based on data availability, reflection of populations, connection to the corresponding result, and communication to diverse stakeholders. The selected indicators represent a short list that met the team's criteria for quality standards. Other indicators were considered but not included for a variety of reasons, including lack of connection to the populations of interest or to results and outcomes of the *Framework*.

Result
Environments that impact children are safe, stable and supportive.

Result
Localities and the state attain economic and social benefits by prioritizing children and families.

Headline Indicator: Percentage of children in households spending more than 30 percent of their income on housing
(Source: American Community Survey)

Headline Indicator: Percentage of parents who report their neighborhood or community is usually or always safe for their child
(Source: National Survey of Children's Health)

Systems Performance Indicator: Percentage of families that quit a job, did not take a job or greatly changed a job because of problems with childcare
(Source: CDPHE, Center for Health and Environmental Data, Child Health Survey)

Systems Performance Indicator: Percentage and number of licensed child care centers and preschools attaining a level 3-5 rating under Colorado Shines QRIS system
(Source: CDHS, Colorado Shines)

Headline Indicator: Percentage of living wages covered by minimum wage
(Source: US Department of Labor, Living Wage Calculator)

Systems Performance Indicator: Total state dollars funding the Colorado Preschool Program
(Source: CDE, Office of Early Learning and School Readiness)

Systems Performance Indicator: Progress on bills presented in the Colorado State Legislature to enact family friendly workplace policies
(Source: Legislative Bill Tracking)

Systems Performance Indicator: Percentage and number of licensed child care slots compared to the overall population of 0-5-year-olds in the state
(Source: CDHS + State Demographers Office)

Headline Indicators vs. Systems Performance Indicators
Headline Indicators reflect data closest to the population-level, as in *all children in Colorado*, or *all families in Colorado*. Data sources for these indicators include samples that most closely reflect the entire population referenced. **Systems Performance Indicators** may not be reflective of entire populations, but provide evidence on the growth and strength of the early childhood system, inclusive of the health, family support and early learning sectors in Colorado.

The Data Action Team recognizes the need to measure the work of the early childhood system at the performance level to understand collective impact upon outcomes. Thus, an additional layer of measurement was created at the "systems performance" level to make this reflection. For example, an indicator for children in the Colorado Preschool Program or Head Start leaves out children in private preschools or in Family, Friend, and Neighbor care. However, there are currently no quality indicators available for the latter two populations. So the decision was made to include an indicator for programs with statewide reach, despite not being reflective of the entire population.

Data Advocacy Agenda
As partners continue to strive for improved data, the Data Advocacy Agenda provides a concrete list of indicators partners can support to develop or improve. This list will continue to grow as the Data Action Team and other partners identify opportunities.

Number of counties/districts providing fully-funded full-day Kindergarten

Kindergarten readiness indicator

Preschool suspension and expulsion rates

Keep the "story behind the data" in mind
Some of the indicators are worded in a way that may be misinterpreted by someone unfamiliar with the data. For example, a survey respondent may indicate they had a high number of poor mental health days in the past month, but that does not indicate the parent is not knowledgeable, responsive, and interacting effectively with and on behalf of children as the corresponding result indicates. The Data Action Team focused on utilizing multiple systems-level measures to display a more comprehensive picture of how the data supports the headline indicators and results. The team will work continuously to provide added context to the data to ensure understanding of the data and how partners are using it to inform decisions and drive change.

The Journey to Develop the Indicators
The Data Development Action Team began the process in 2015 to revise the Data Agenda based on the updated *Early Childhood Colorado Framework*. Members of the team include representatives from diverse organizations and agencies connected to the Early Childhood Colorado Partnership. Criteria used for indicator selection included:
- Alignment with each of the outcome areas listed in the framework: Health & Well-Being, Learning & Development, and Family Support & Education
- Alignment with the Framework's outcome areas of access, equity and quality
- Meeting the tenets of Results Based Accountability (RBA): data power, proxy power, communication power[2]
- Data which could be disaggregated and would be available at local levels

Although it is impossible to find indicators perfectly aligned with these criteria, they were considered throughout the selection process.

For more information: www.earlychildhoodcoloradopartnership.org

What to join the Data Action Team? Share the story of how your organization or community is using the Data Agenda.
Email the Partnership: earlychildhood@civiccanopy.org

Sources:
1: Early Childhood Colorado Framework (2015). www.earlychildhoodframework.org
2: Friedman, M. (2015). Trying Hard is Not Good Enough.