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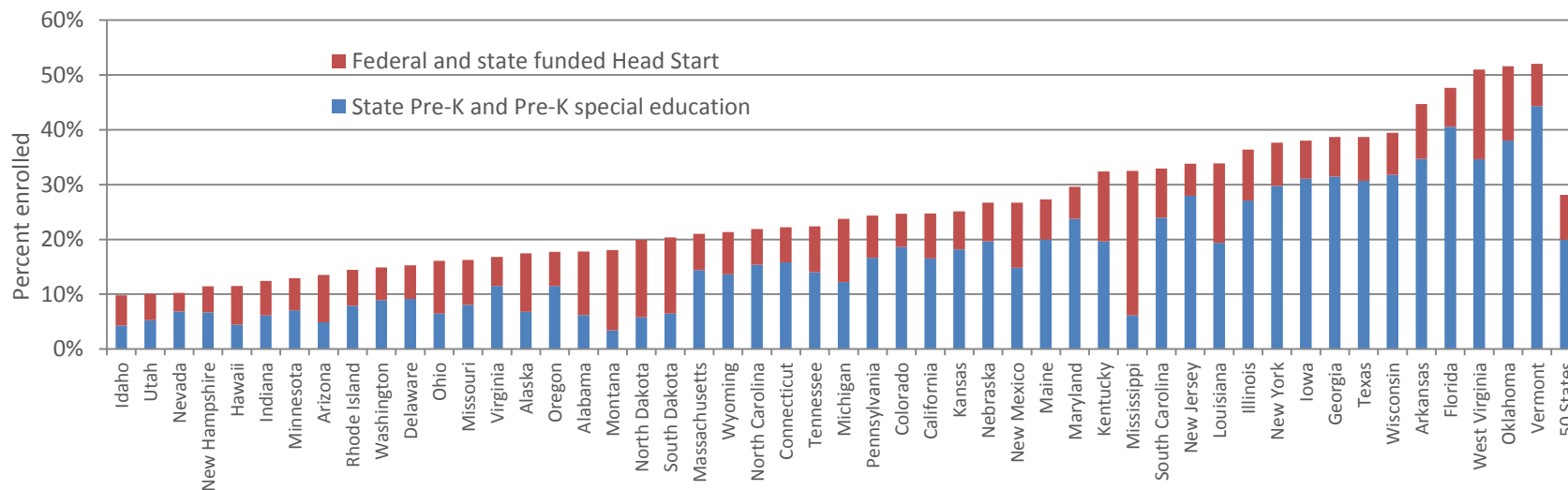
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Children Enrolled in Public Early Childhood Education Programs

The below chart depicts the portion of three- and four-year old children in each state who are enrolled in state pre-k, pre-k special education or Head Start. Importantly, these percentages do *not* represent the portion enrolled out of all three- and four-year old children *eligible* for these programs, which is often a more limited population. Additionally, the three programs presented in this chart are not an exhaustive list of public early childhood education programs. Other public programs include military child care such as OMCC and MCCYN, as well as U.S. General Services Administration child care. There may also be local organizations that provide public child care independent of federal or state financing.

Percentage of three- to four-year old children enrolled in state pre-K, pre-K special education or Head Start, by state (2010-2011)



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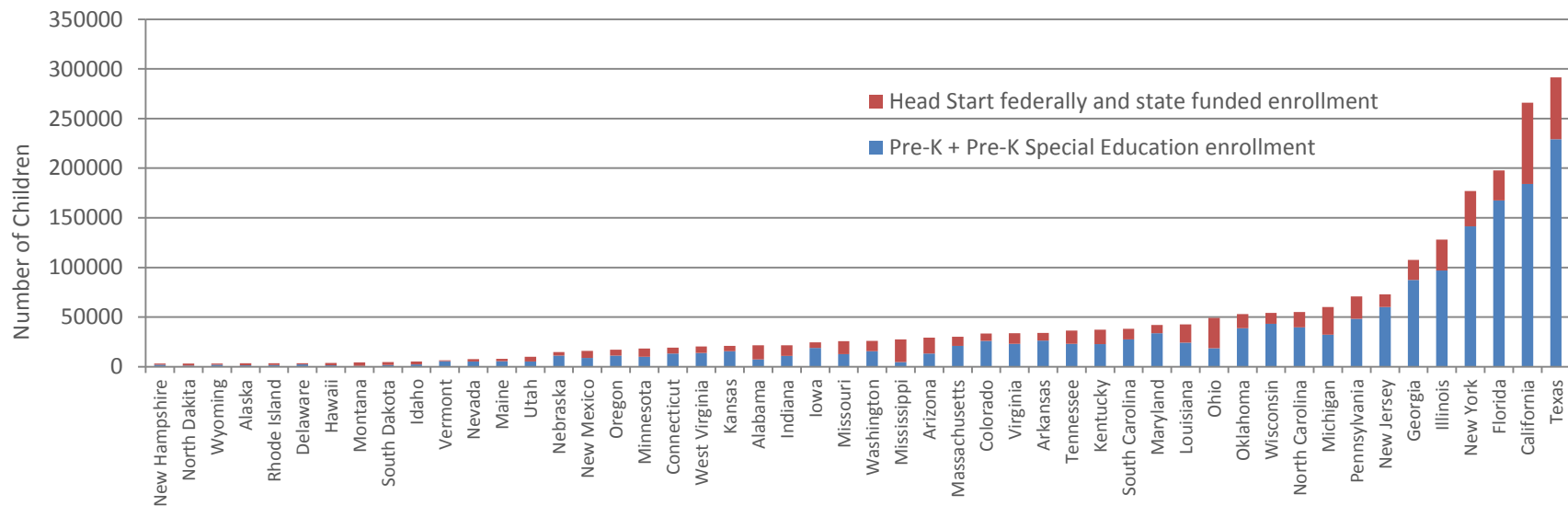
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The above chart shows that state pre-k serves a larger proportion of three and four year olds than Head Start (pre-k special education is a small program). This difference can often be attributed to the nature of the programs: while Head Start is a highly targeted program for poor children, many state pre-k programs are universal or have higher income thresholds for eligibility than Head Start.

The chart below presents the total number of children enrolled in state pre-k, pre-k special education or Head Start as a raw number. The juxtaposition of this chart with the previous highlights the importance of considering the population served when assessing program capacity. For example, while California ranks second in number of children enrolled in one of the three programs, when the size of the child population is accounted for, the state ranks 22nd (as shown in the previous chart).

Number of three- and four-year olds enrolled in state pre-K, pre-K special education, or Head Start*, by state (2010-2011)



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Sources & notes:

Source: Barnett, W.S., Epstein, D.J., Carolan, M.E., Fitzgerald, J., Ackerman, D.J., & Friedman, A.H. (2010). *The state of preschool 2010: State preschool yearbook*. National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER). New Jersey: Rutgers University. The three programs presented in this chart are not an exhaustive list of public early childhood education programs. Other public programs include military child care such as OMCC and MCCYN, as well as U.S. General Services Administration child care. There may also be local organizations that provide public child care independent of federal or state financing. Washington, D.C. and U.S. territories are not included in the chart. The 50 states total in the first chart, *Percentage of three- to four-year old children enrolled in state pre-K, pre-K special education or Head Start*, does not include D.C. or any U.S. territories.

*Head Start numbers use funded enrollment (i.e. slots), which represent the maximum number of children funded to be served by Head Start at any time over the program year.