

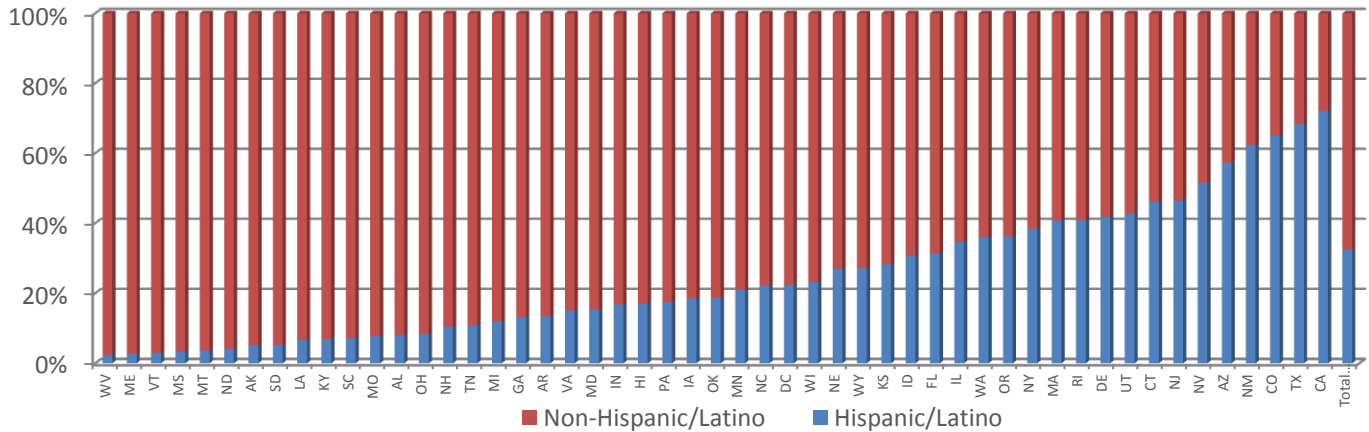


Diversity in Head Start

Ethnic Composition of Head Start Participants

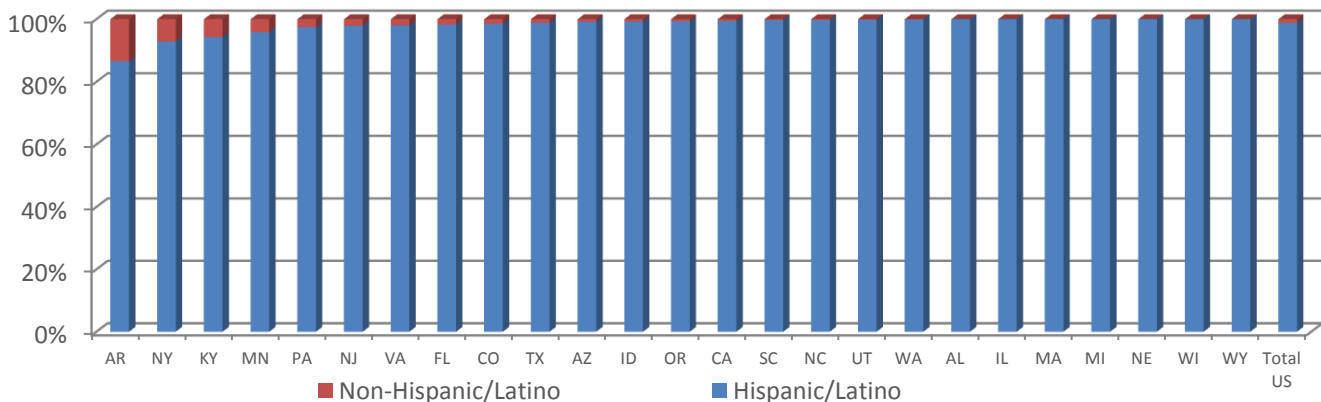
The Hispanic or Latino ethnic composition of Head Start participants varies by state and by program type. On average across all states, about 25% of 900,920 three- and four-year olds participating in traditional¹ and American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) Head Start programs in 2010-2011 report Latino ethnicity, but this ranges widely: from two percent in West Virginia to 72% in California.

Hispanic/Latino ethnic composition of traditional Head Start and American Indian/Alaska Native Head Start participants by state, 2010-2011²



Compared to the demographics of traditional Head Start program participants above, Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) participants have different geographic and ethnic distributions. MSHS centers are located in 36 states³ with significant agricultural production and the overwhelming majority (99%) of the 34,043 MSHS participants report Hispanic or Latino ethnicity.

Hispanic/Latino ethnic composition of Migrant and Seasonal Head Start participants by state, 2010-2011⁴



diversitydatakids.org

quality of life and diversity data on families



The distinct ethnic compositions of MSHS programs compared to traditional and AI/AN Head Start programs signal that different populations are served by each type of program. Given the predominance of Hispanics in MSHS, these programs are often tailored to this population through culturally and linguistically sensitive early childhood education services.⁵ Although Hispanic/Latino children do not make up as large a proportion of traditional and AI/AN Head Start participants, they still represent an important and growing group. Head Start has increasingly recognized the need to meet the cultural and developmental needs of these children.⁶

Sources & notes

¹ There are four types of programs within Head Start: Head Start programs, Early Head Start programs, Migrant & Seasonal Head Start programs or American Indian/Alaska Native Head Start programs. Head Start programs constitute the largest of the four types of programs, and serve children aged three to mandatory school age (usually five). Throughout diversitydatakids, Head Start programs are often referred to as 'traditional' Head Start programs when juxtaposed with any of the other types of programs, for clarity.

² Author's calculations using Program Information Report (PIR) data from the 2010-2011 enrollment year. PIR is an annual survey of all Head Start programs, which includes the collection of basic demographic information such as participant race and ethnicity. Percentages are calculated by dividing the number of Hispanic/Latino or non-Hispanic/Latino enrolled in Head Start during the 2010-2011 period by the total cumulative enrollment for each state during the same period. Total U.S. does not include U.S. territories, only the 50 states and D.C.

³ Personal communication (email) with ACF HSES Helpdesk. March 01, 2013. Refers to 2011-2012 PIR data.

⁴ Authors' calculations using PIR survey data from the 2010-2011 enrollment year. Percentages are calculated by dividing the number of Hispanic/Latino or non-Hispanic/Latino students by the total cumulative enrollment for each state. Total U.S. does not include U.S. territories, only the 50 states and D.C. MSHS centers currently operate in 36 states; however, only 25 states are displayed in this 2010-2011 graph. This discrepancy is due to the fact that PIR data is reported at the program level, and assigns the business address of each MSHS grantee to all the programs it oversees, even though these programs may be operating in centers in multiple states. PIR data is collected at the program level and some MSHS grantees run programs with centers in more than one state. For example, a large MSHS grantee with a business address in Texas oversees programs with MSHS centers located in Indiana, Ohio, Nevada, New Mexico, Iowa, and Oklahoma. Even though MSHS centers are operating in all these states, only Texas appears in the chart because the others are not home to any MSHS grantees.

⁵ National Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Collaboration Office. (2009). *The invisible children of migrant and seasonal farmworkers in the United States: An examination of existing pre-k partnerships* (1st ed). Washington, D.C.: Academy for Educational Development. Retrieved from http://www.ece.aed.org/publications/nms/InvisibleChildren_2.18.09.pdf.

⁶ The Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, 42 U.S.C. § 9801 *et. seq.* (2007).