

Glossary

Data administrators

Staff that work with or understand an agency’s data systems, or in the case of communities with integrated data systems (IDS), staff that work with or understand the IDS. Staff that can work with population-level data. May be trained evaluators.

Front-line staff

The individuals working directly with families and children. This may include: early care and education providers, healthcare providers, family support specialists, home visitors, case managers, eligibility staff, and others.

Parents

This is used inclusively to refer to biological and adoptive parents as well as other caregivers in parenting roles, such as grandparents, legal guardians, foster parents, and kinship caregivers.

Population-level data

These are data that capture all (or nearly all) children and/or families in a community. They are based on representative surveys, vital statistics, or education records.

Program or administrative data

Data sourced to program case records or service counts within an agency or, in the event of integrated data systems, across several agencies. The data generally comprise a subset of all children and families in a community—those receiving services from the agency or agencies that provide the service.

Sector

A type of service within an early childhood system, such as early care and education, health care, home visiting, or child welfare. A sector may include one or more government agencies responsible for funding and oversight and many providers of services.

System

A formal or informal network of interrelated and interdependent agencies and organizations working across sectors to support a particular population—in this instance, young children and their families.

System leaders

Administrators in leadership roles in the convening or “hub” organization of the early childhood system and in the sectors that make up the system, such as executive directors, program managers, and senior staff.