

Purpose

Under the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act or CAPTA (Public Law 111-320), a referral of a child under the age of three who is involved in a substantiated case of abuse or neglect must be made to the early intervention program funded by Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). In Missouri, the Part C of IDEA is known as First Steps.

The Missouri First Steps program contracts with a System Point of Entry (SPOE) in ten regions throughout the state. Each SPOE is responsible for the local administration of the program, including referral, intake, eligibility determination and Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) development.

The Missouri Department of Social Services (DSS), Children's Division requires staff to refer any child under age three who meets the criteria of CAPTA to First Steps. This report provides information related to the children referred to First Steps with a referral source of CAPTA or DSS in calendar year 2018.

Children Referred to the First Steps Program

In calendar year 2018, 1,161 children were referred to the First Steps program by the Department of Social Services Children's Division. Of the 1,161 children, 642 children (55.3%) had a referral source of CAPTA, and 519 children had a referral source of Department of Social Services.

Of the 642 children referred with a referral source of CAPTA, 169 children (26.3%) were found eligible and reached the status of an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The remaining 473 children did not reach IFSP status due to the following reasons: 248 were withdrawn by a parent or guardian; 130 were Part C ineligible; 63 were unable to contact/locate; 27 were refused by SPOE; and 5 were inquiry only*.

Of the 519 children referred with a referral source of DSS, 183 children (35.3%) were found eligible and reached the status of an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The remaining 336 children did not reach IFSP status due to the following reasons: 154 were Part C ineligible; 114 were withdrawn by a parent or guardian; 44 were unable to contact/locate; 20 were refused by SPOE; and 4 were inquiry only*.

*Referral records that were closed with the reason *inquiry only* were included in this report. Inquiry only refers to those who are only seeking more information about the child or program.

Active Children by SPOE Region

Table 1 represents the 642 children referred to First Steps with a referral source of CAPTA and their eligibility percentages by SPOE region.

Table 1: CAPTA Referrals and First Steps Status for Calendar Year 2018			
SPOE Region	Referred to FS	Reached IFSP	% Served
Region 1 - Greater St. Louis	43	14	32.6%
Region 2 - St. Louis County	56	23	41.1%
Region 3 - Northeast	41	12	29.3%
Region 4 - Northwest Missouri	43	9	20.9%
Region 5 - Greater Kansas City	24	8	33.3%
Region 6 - Central Missouri	66	12	18.2%
Region 7 - Southwest Missouri	37	12	32.4%
Region 8 - South Central Missouri	122	32	26.2%
Region 9 - East Central Missouri	73	16	21.9%
Region 10 - Southeast Missouri	137	31	22.6%
Total	642	169	26.3%

Table 2 represents the 519 children referred to First Steps with a referral source of DSS and their eligibility percentages by SPOE region.

Table 2: DSS Referrals and First Steps Status for Calendar Year 2018			
SPOE Region	Referred to FS	Reached IFSP	% Served
Region 1 - Greater St. Louis	55	19	34.5%
Region 2 - St. Louis County	66	24	36.4%
Region 3 - Northeast	36	9	25.0%
Region 4 - Northwest Missouri	38	12	31.6%
Region 5 - Greater Kansas City	68	28	41.2%
Region 6 - Central Missouri	39	13	33.3%
Region 7 - Southwest Missouri	37	14	37.8%
Region 8 - South Central Missouri	91	31	34.1%
Region 9 - East Central Missouri	53	20	37.7%
Region 10 - Southeast Missouri	36	13	36.1%
Total	519	183	35.3%

For a map of the SPOE regions, visit the First Steps website at:

<http://dese.mo.gov/sites/default/files/se-fs-spo-contact-information-by-region.pdf>

Service Authorizations

Table 3 represents the First Steps service authorizations for the 169 children referred to First Steps with a referral source of CAPTA who received First Steps services. At the end of calendar year 2018, there were a total of 607 active authorizations for the 169 children.

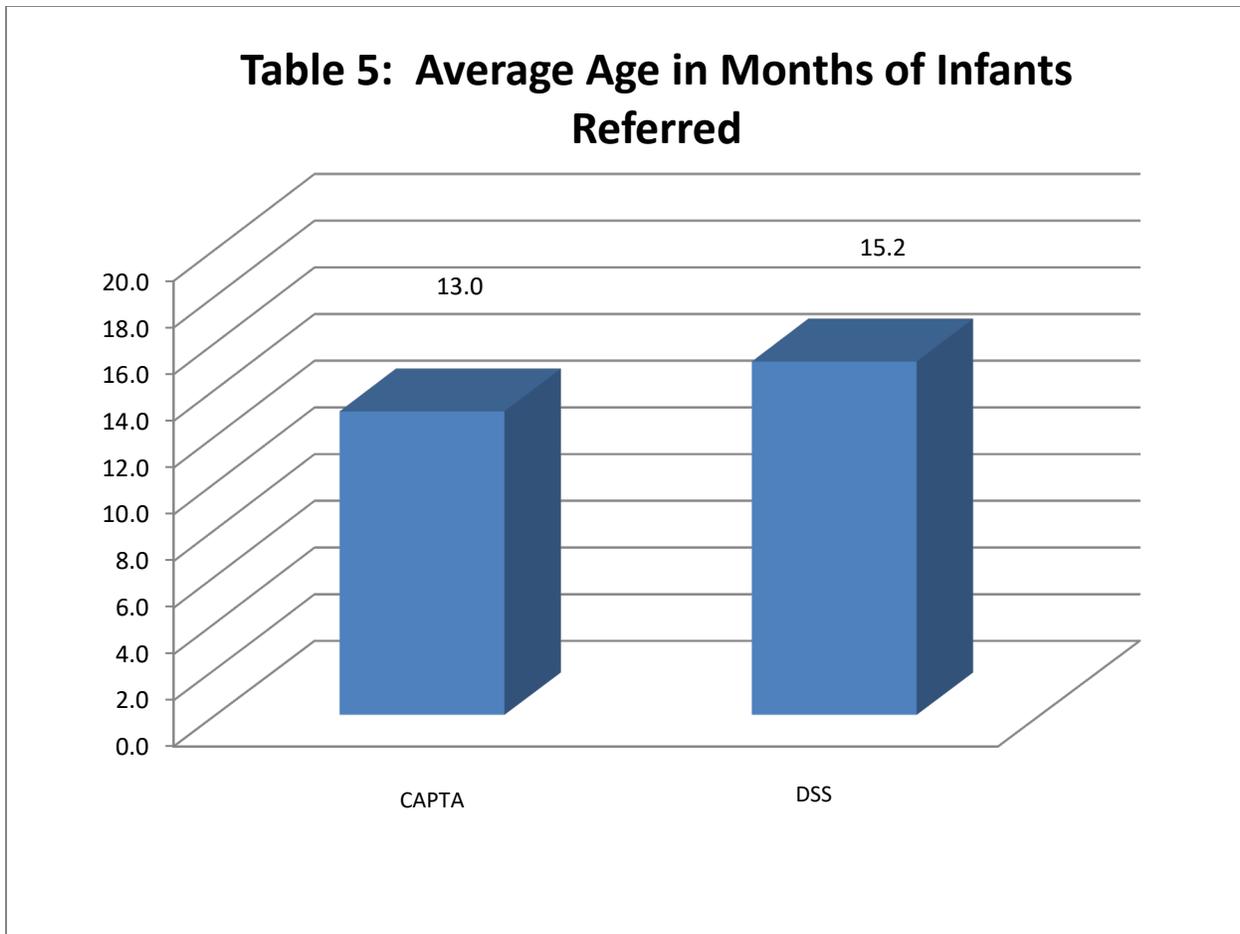
Table 3: First Steps Authorizations Resulted from CAPTA Referrals		
Service Type	Authorization Count	Percentage
El Testing	148	24.4%
Special Instruction	125	20.6%
Physical Therapy	101	16.6%
Speech Language Pathology	92	15.2%
Occupational Therapy	91	15.0%
Assistive Technology	20	3.3%
Dietary/Nutrition Services	9	1.5%
Social Work	6	1.0%
Audiology	4	0.7%
Applied Behavior Analysis	3	0.5%
Vision Services	3	0.5%
Counseling	3	0.5%
Translation Services	2	0.3%
Total	607	100%

Table 4 represents the First Steps service authorizations for the 183 children referred to First Steps with a referral source of DSS who received First Steps services. At the end of calendar year 2018, there were a total of 649 active authorizations for the 183 children.

Table 4: First Steps Authorizations Resulted from DSS Referrals		
Service Type	Authorization Count	Percentage
El (Early Intervention) Testing	166	25.6%
Special Instruction	143	22.0%
Speech Language Pathology	113	17.4%
Occupational Therapy	87	13.4%
Physical Therapy	83	12.8%
Assistive Technology	18	2.8%
Applied Behavior Analysis	12	1.8%
Dietary/Nutrition Services	9	1.4%
Social Work	7	1.1%
Counseling	6	0.9%
Translation Services	2	0.3%
Vision Services	2	0.3%
Audiology	1	0.2%
Total	649	100.00%

Average Age

Table 5 represents the average age of the 642 children referred to First Steps by CAPTA and the 519 children referred to First Steps by DSS. The average age of children referred to First Steps in 2018 was 13.0 months for CAPTA referrals and 15.2 months for DSS referrals.



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