

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 Department of Social Services, 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 2015.

Children Referred to the First Steps Program*

In calendar year 2015, Children's Division reported 857 children were eligible for referral to the First Steps program pursuant to CAPTA requirements. During calendar year 2015, 164 children (19.1%) were referred to First Steps with a referral source of CAPTA. Additionally, there were 1,068 children referred to First Steps with a referral source of Department of Social Services (DSS).

Of the 164 children referred with a referral source of CAPTA, 21 children (12.8%) were found eligible and reached the status of an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The remaining 143 children did not reach IFSP status due to the following reasons: 66 were withdrawn by a parent or guardian; 55 were Part C ineligible; 21 were unable to contact/locate; and 1 was refused by SPOE.

Of the 1,068 children referred with a referral source of DSS, 225 children (21.1%) were found eligible and reached the status of an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP). The remaining 843 children did not reach IFSP status due to the following reasons: 343 were withdrawn by a parent or guardian; 321 were Part C ineligible; 138 were unable to contact/locate; 23 were inquiry only; 14 were refused by SPOE; 3 moved out of state; and 1 was Part B ineligible (without additional referral).

*Referral records that were closed with the reason *Inquiry Only* were included in this report.

Active Children by SPOE Region

Table 1 represents the 164 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 2015			
SPOE Region	Referred to FS	Reached IFSP	% Served
Region 1 - Greater St. Louis	3	0	0.0%
Region 2 - St. Louis County	1	1	100.0%
Region 3 - Northeast	13	1	7.7%
Region 4 - Northwest Missouri	4	0	0.0%
Region 5 - Greater Kansas City	8	2	25.0%
Region 6 - Central Missouri	37	3	8.1%
Region 7 - Southwest Missouri	3	2	66.7%
Region 8 - South Central Missouri	34	4	11.8%
Region 9 - East Central Missouri	27	7	25.9%
Region 10 - Southeast Missouri	34	1	2.9%
Total	164	21	12.8%

Table 2 represents the 1,068 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 2015			
SPOE Region	Referred to FS	Reached IFSP	% Served
Region 1 - Greater St. Louis	127	24	18.9%
Region 2 - St. Louis County	115	33	28.7%
Region 3 - Northeast	62	9	14.5%
Region 4 - Northwest Missouri	70	13	18.6%
Region 5 - Greater Kansas City	71	15	21.1%
Region 6 - Central Missouri	83	16	19.3%
Region 7 - Southwest Missouri	102	14	13.7%
Region 8 - South Central Missouri	227	58	25.6%
Region 9 - East Central Missouri	115	25	21.7%
Region 10 - Southeast Missouri	96	18	18.8%
Total	1068	225	21.1%

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

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

Service Authorizations

Table 3 represents the First Steps service authorizations for the 21 children referred to First Steps with a referral source of CAPTA and received First Steps services. At the end of calendar year 2015, there were a total of 74 active authorizations for the 21 children.

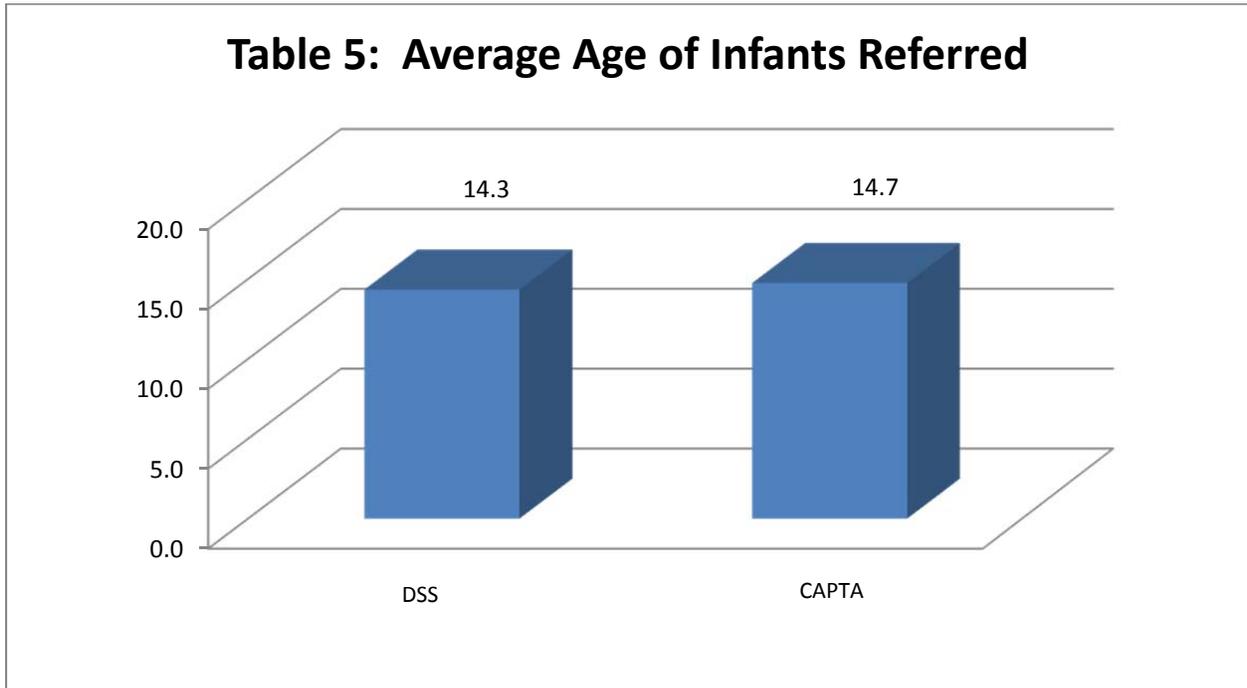
Table 3: First Steps Authorizations Resulted from CAPTA Referrals		
Service Type	Authorization Count	Percentage
El Testing	19	25.7%
Special Instruction	18	24.3%
Occupational Therapy	11	14.9%
Physical Therapy	11	14.9%
Speech Language Pathology	7	9.5%
Social Work	4	5.4%
Vision Services	4	5.4%
Total	74	100%

Table 4 represents the First Steps service authorizations for the 196 children referred to First Steps with a referral source of DSS and received First Steps services. At the end of calendar year 2015, there were a total of 755 active authorizations for the 196 children.

Table 4: First Steps Authorizations Resulted from DSS Referrals		
Service Type	Authorization Count	Percentage
El Testing	170	22.5%
Special Instruction	166	22.0%
Physical Therapy	132	17.5%
Occupational Therapy	115	15.2%
Speech Language Pathology	93	12.3%
Assistive Technology	29	3.8%
Dietary/Nutrition Services	25	3.3%
Social Work	11	1.5%
Translation Services	6	0.8%
Vision Services	3	0.4%
Applied Behavior Analysis	2	0.3%
Audiology	2	0.3%
Team Mtg – Eligibility	1	0.1%
Total	755	100.00%

Average Age

Table 5 represents the average age of the 164 children referred to First Steps with a referral source of CAPTA and the 1,068 children referred to First Steps with a referral source of DSS. The average age of children referred to First Steps in 2015 was 14.7 months for CAPTA referrals and 14.3 months for DSS referrals.



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