Wisconsin Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS)
End of Grant Report | December 2017
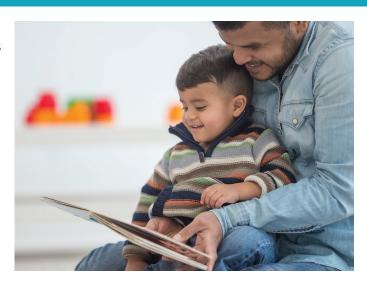
The WI ECIDS Project Progress and Highlights

The Race to the Top-Early Learning Challenge Grant funding (2013-2017) has supported Wisconsin in the development of the Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS). We have successfully implemented the ECIDS and will continue the work by conducting meaningful research to better the lives of young children in Wisconsin.

Additional Highlights

- The complete technical solution has been implemented and includes:

  ECIDS Knowledge Base (KB): Establishes and maintains cross-agency links for client, participant and student records related to the same individual (1/1/1994 – present).

  ECIDS File Manager Tool (FMT): Allows for encrypted file data exchanges and produces metadata reports uploaded to the ECIDS User Portal.

  ECIDS User Portal: A web interface available to researchers and data analysts, allowing them to manage their research projects. Also serves as a research repository for past and current research projects, provides for monitoring of the KB, downloading of the FMT, as well as providing documentation and training.

- The three pilot research and analytic questions are in process and near completion.

- Documentation and training materials are complete. See the ECIDS Overview video at https://dpi.wi.gov/early-childhood/ecids.

What Types of Questions Can the ECIDS Answer?

The WI ECIDS Five Essential Policy Questions

The feasibility study project team (2011-2012) recommended a set of essential policy questions that fit the state's early childhood policy goals. The questions were confirmed by public feedback gathered during the Early Childhood Collaborating Partners video conference on August 11, 2017. The outcome was the following list of key policy questions for the State of Wisconsin:

1. Are children, birth to age 5, on track to succeed when they enter school and beyond?
2. Which children and families are and are not being served by which programs/services?
3. Which children have access to high-quality early childhood programs and services?
4. What characteristics of programs are associated with positive child outcomes for which children?
5. What are the education and economic returns on early childhood investments?

Many underlying questions will be asked by agency researchers/analysts to answer the five essential policy questions.

To begin the use of the WI ECIDS, the three agencies have each asked an underlying question.

- How does Wisconsin Shares funding correlate with early childhood school suspensions? The agencies, DCF and DPI, have provided the data to answer this question proposed by DPI. The question relates to essential policy question number one above.

- What is the behavioral health impact of hearing loss among school children who participated in birth to 3 special education services? Here, DHS and DPI provide the data for this question from DHS. The question relates to essential policy question number one above and also touches on essential policy questions three and four above.

- Are there differences in 3rd grade reading proficiency for children who receive Wisconsin Shares and were in center-based versus family child care? This question, posed by DCF, is answered using DCF and DPI data. The question relates to essential policy question number one above and also touches on essential policy questions three and four above.

The results of the three pilot research questions will be published soon, in accordance with each question's Data Use Agreement. Moving forward, in 2018, researchers and analysts at DPI, DHS, and DCF will continue to explore further questions.

For more information on the ECIDS, visit our website at https://dpi.wi.gov/early-childhood/ecids.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

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