



Mazie & her Family



**WV GOVERNOR'S EARLY
INTERVENTION INTERAGENCY
COORDINATING COUNCIL**

Annual Report 2024

WV Birth to Three Services are provided under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Acknowledgements

In West Virginia, our most important resources is our children.

We extend special thanks to the families who shared their experiences with WV Birth to Three and graciously granted permission for the WV GEIICC to share pictures of their children.



Angelo



Haizley



Tyler



Owen

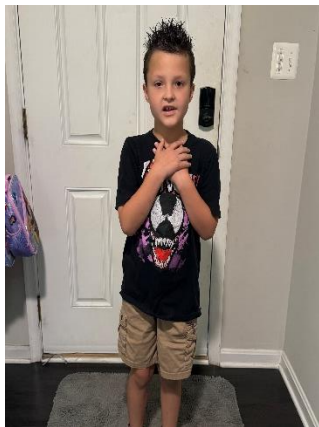
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Damien



Leya



James



Teddy



Owen

WV Governors Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council (WV GEIICC)



The WV GEIICC was established in 1987 in compliance with the federal regulations governing state early intervention systems that address the needs of infants and toddlers, ages birth to three, eligible under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). These regulations require each state to establish a state interagency coordinating council to advise and assist the lead agency in the development and implementation of the Part C statewide system.

In West Virginia, the lead agency is the West Virginia Department of Health (DH), and the system is administered through the Bureau for Public Health, Office of Maternal, Child and Family Health. While the WV GEIICC provides advice and assistance to the lead agency with the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the WV Birth to Three system, the lead agency has final authority in the administration of the state system.

Membership and participation of parents, practitioners and community partners is valued and the expertise they bring to the Council is important to the success of the WV Birth to Three system. In 2004, their assistance supported the WV Department of Health and Human Resources, the lead agency at that time, in completing a redesign of the early intervention system and continues to ensure the WV Birth to Three system provides high quality services and supports. All professionals are enrolled through the state system and operate across the state. Financing is centralized at the state level, coordinating access to Medicaid, WV CHIP, and State and Federal Part C funding. WV Birth to Three must use Federal Part C funding as funding of last resort.

Of special note, WV Birth to Three has been found to be "meeting requirements" as established by the Federal Office of Special Education since the inception of this rating system in 2006. This determination is based on WV Birth to Three's performance against compliance indicators, quality of data, and the quality of services and supports provided to eligible infants, toddlers, and their families in the places they live, learn and play.

Council meetings are held five times a year and are open to the public. Time is set aside at each meeting to hear from guests. This time is designed for the Council to learn from stakeholders, to celebrate and recognize people, services and/or community activities which further best practice in the field of early care and education, as well as to hear comments and concerns regarding services and supports in the early childhood community.

Council Activities

1. Assist WV Birth to Three with State Systemic Improvement (SSIP) Work
 - Serve as key stakeholder group for guidance, review and analysis of data and exploration of improvement strategies
 - Provide guidance and oversight to SSIP Implementation Teams via review of work to date and participation on teams
2. Assist WV Birth to Three with development of publications and documents
3. Provide advice and assistance with the development, implementation, and evaluation of initiatives, projects, and procedures
4. Collaborate with early childhood partners to educate and support children, families, caregivers, and professionals to
 - Strengthen partnerships across early childhood programs by sharing information and resources
 - Partner with WV Infant/Toddler Mental Health Association to maintain the resource component of their website (<https://teamwv.org/west-virginia-infant-toddler-mental-health-association/wvitmh-resources/>)

The WV GEIICC is staffed by employees of River Valley Child Development Services, Inc. and includes:

- Sheila A. Zickefoose, MA, IMHE®, WV GEIICC Statewide Coordinator
- Sara Fitzwater Miller, Training and Technical Assistance Statewide Coordinator

What do Families Say About Their Experience in WV Birth to Three

This video compiles testimonials received from families upon their child and family exiting WV Birth to Three services - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4irgvmWkfl>.



Emma



Rocko and Grandma

WV GEICC Membership

Family Member	Representing	Term Exp
Jessica Bohman	Parent of children under age 12	7/1/2027
Erin Morrison	Parent of child under age 6	7/1/2026
Bridget Waltz	Parent of child under age 12	7/1/2025
Brittany Willard	Parent of child under age 6	7/1/2027
Sheila Womack	Parent of child under age 6	7/1/2025
Stephanie Young	Parent of child under age 6	7/1/2026
Provider	Representing	Term Exp
Dr. Breanna Adkins, Occupational Therapist	WVU Medical Corporation	7/1/2025
Wendy Altizer, Physical Therapist	Milestones Physical Therapy	7/1/2025
Melissa Carpenter, Vision Specialist	WV Schools for the Deaf and Blind	7/1/2027
Cindy Chamberlin, Physical Therapist	Independent Physical Therapist	7/1/2027
Trina Clark, Service Coordinator	Totally SC, Inc.	7/1/2026
Rhea Dyer, Speech Language Pathologist	Best Life Therapy LLC	7/1/2026
Personnel Preparation	Representing	Term Exp
Naomi Creer – Chairperson	Concord University	7/1/2027
Dr. Alison Kreger	Wheeling University	7/1/2026
Dr. Jennifer McFarland-Whisman	Marshall University	7/1/2025
Preschool Special Education	Representing	Term Exp
Lisa Fisher	WVDE - Office of Early Learning	Ongoing
Holly Rinehart	County Preschool Spec Needs Teacher	7/1/2026
Head Start	Representing	Term Exp
Brittany Doss	Head Start Collaboration Office	Ongoing
State Agency	Representing	Term Exp
Cynthia Beane, Commissioner Garland Holley, Designee	WV DoHS - Bureau for Medical Services	Ongoing
Janie Cole, Commissioner Tiffany Kiess, Designee	WV DoHS - Bureau for Family Assistance	Ongoing
Teresa Marks, Interim Director Regina "Mel" Woodcock, Designee	WV DH - Office of Maternal Child and Family Health	Ongoing
Alan McVey, Commissioner Michael Malone, Designee	Offices of the Insurance Commissioner	Ongoing
Kimberly Ricketts, Interim Commissioner Mary Thompson, Designee	WV DoHS - Bureau for Social Services	Ongoing
Stacey Shamblin, Interim Exec Dir Garland Holley, Designee	WV DoHS - WVCHIP	Ongoing
Nick Stuchell, Interim Commissioner Roxanne Chaney, Designee	WV DoHS - Bureau for Behavioral Health	Ongoing
Kristin Walter	WV DE - Office of Student Success & Well-being	Ongoing
Legislature	Representing	Term Exp
VACANT	House of Delegates	Ongoing
VACANT	Senate	Ongoing
Members at Large	Representing	Term Exp
Kristian Ball	DHHR Newborn Hearing Screen Program	7/1/2026
Diane Callison	Family Resource Networks	7/1/2026
Emily Church	Parent Partners	7/1/2025
Lesley Cottrell, Director Courtney Ringstaff, Designee	WVU Center for Excellence in Disabilities	7/1/2025
Angel Kennedy	PERC	7/1/2025
Dr. Beth Emrick	WV Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics	7/1/2026
Susan Given, Director Kate Grim, Designee	Disability Rights WV	7/1/2027
Dave Gustke	Parent of Child Over Age 12	7/1/2026
Brenda Lamkin, Director	WVPTI	7/1/2026
Wendy Miller	RAU Coordinators	7/1/2026
Jackie Newson Han Wu, Designee	WV Home Visitation	7/1/2027
Tina Wiseman, Executive Director Katie Arbaugh, Designee	WV Developmental Disabilities Council	7/1/2025

Every Child Deserves a Good Start



WV Birth to Three is a statewide system of services and supports for children under three and their family who have a delay in their development or may be at risk of having a delay. WV Birth to Three supports are provided at no cost to families.

WV Birth to Three is administered through DH's Bureau of Public Health, Office of Maternal, Child, and Family Health in partnership with the WV Governor's Early Intervention Interagency Council to assure that family-centered and community-based early intervention services are available to all eligible children and families.

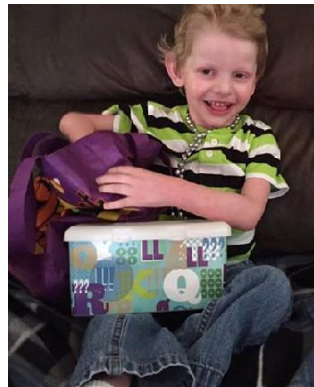
Who is Eligible for WV Birth to Three?

Any infant or toddler under age three who is experiencing at least one of the following:

- Medical or developmental diagnosis (i.e., Down syndrome); and/or,
- Developmental delays:
 - Cognitive – thinking and learning;
 - Physical – moving, seeing, and hearing;
 - Social and Emotional – feeling, coping, and getting along with others;
 - Adaptive – doing things for themselves;
 - Communication – understanding and communicating with others; and/or,
- Risk of possible delays due to biological and/or family stressors.



Keller



Xavier



Linus



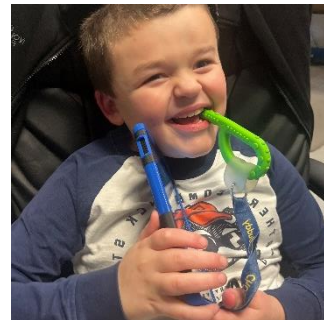
Colt & Mom

Benefits of Early Childhood Intervention Progress

Decades of research show that children's earliest experiences play a critical role in brain development. High quality supports and services provided through the WV Birth to Three system benefit children, families, and society (Importance of Early Intervention for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities and Their Families, NECTAC, 2011).

Young Children	Families	Society
<p>Positive improvements in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health. • Language and communication. • Cognition. • Social and emotional development. <p>Impacts are long lasting, demonstrating positive results into the early education years.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better able to meet the needs of their child presently and in the future. • Increased ability to maintain employment and earnings. • Increased confidence as parents and decreased levels of stress. • Improvement in overall well-being for the family. 	<p>Decreased economic costs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreased need for special and other remedial education. • Children and families require less emergency and health care. • Parents have increased work site productivity and decreased absenteeism and turnover.

(The Economics of Early Childhood Investments, Executive Office of the President of the United States, 2014)



Jacob – as an infant and preschooler

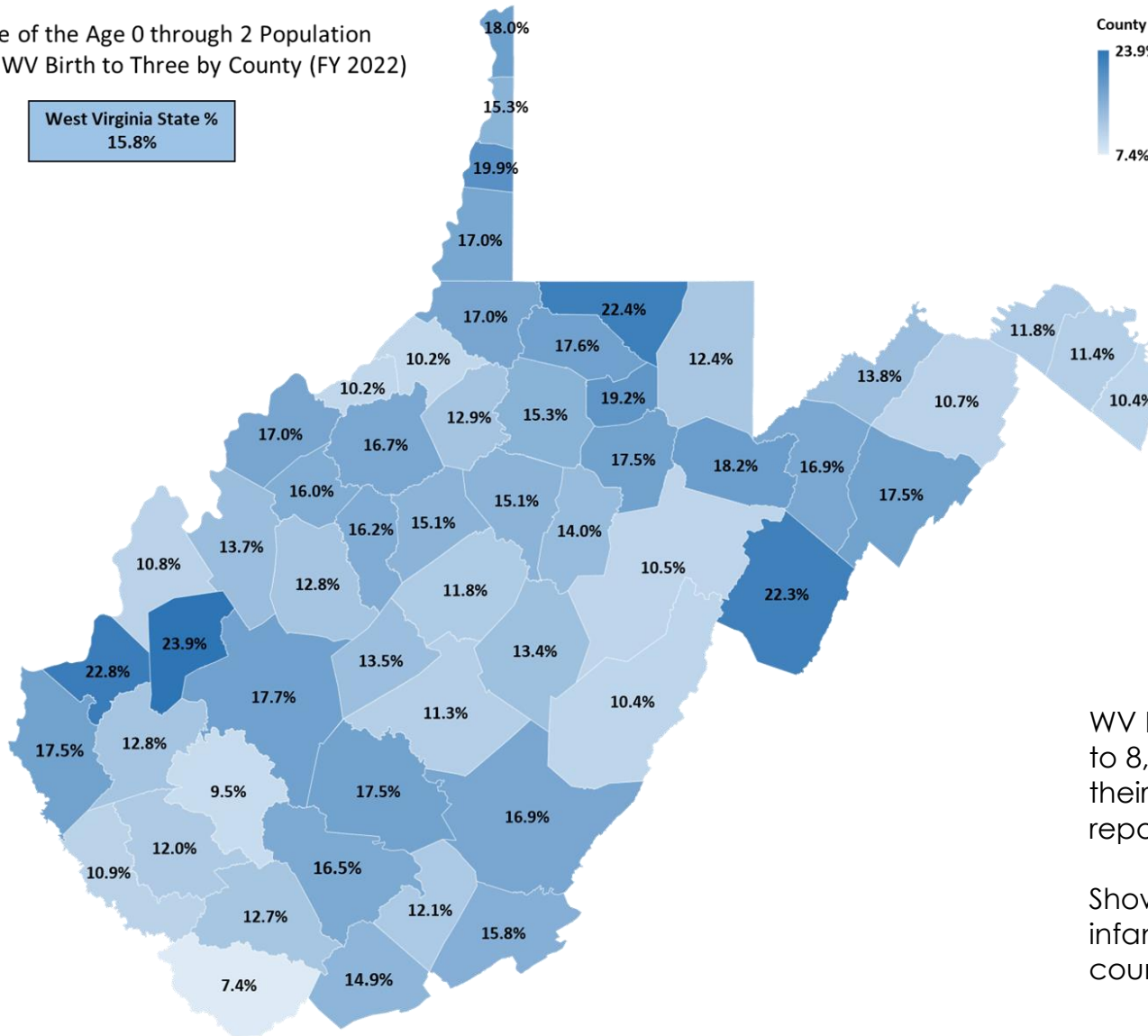
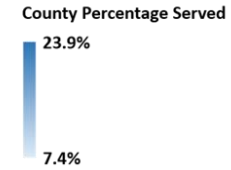
Cost Benefits of WV Birth to Three Services and Supports

Intervention is more effective the earlier in life it can be provided. Research has estimated that for every dollar spent on early intervention there is a \$7.00 savings for public education which translates to an approximate 13% return on investment per child in the first year of life (Effectiveness of Early Child Programs, ECTAC, 2018 and ROI Research Kit, Heckman Equation, 2017).

Who Does WV Birth to Three Serve?

Percentage of the Age 0 through 2 Population Served by WV Birth to Three by County (FY 2022)

West Virginia State %
15.8%



WV Birth to Three provided services to 8,277 infants and toddlers and their families during the 2021-2022 reporting period.

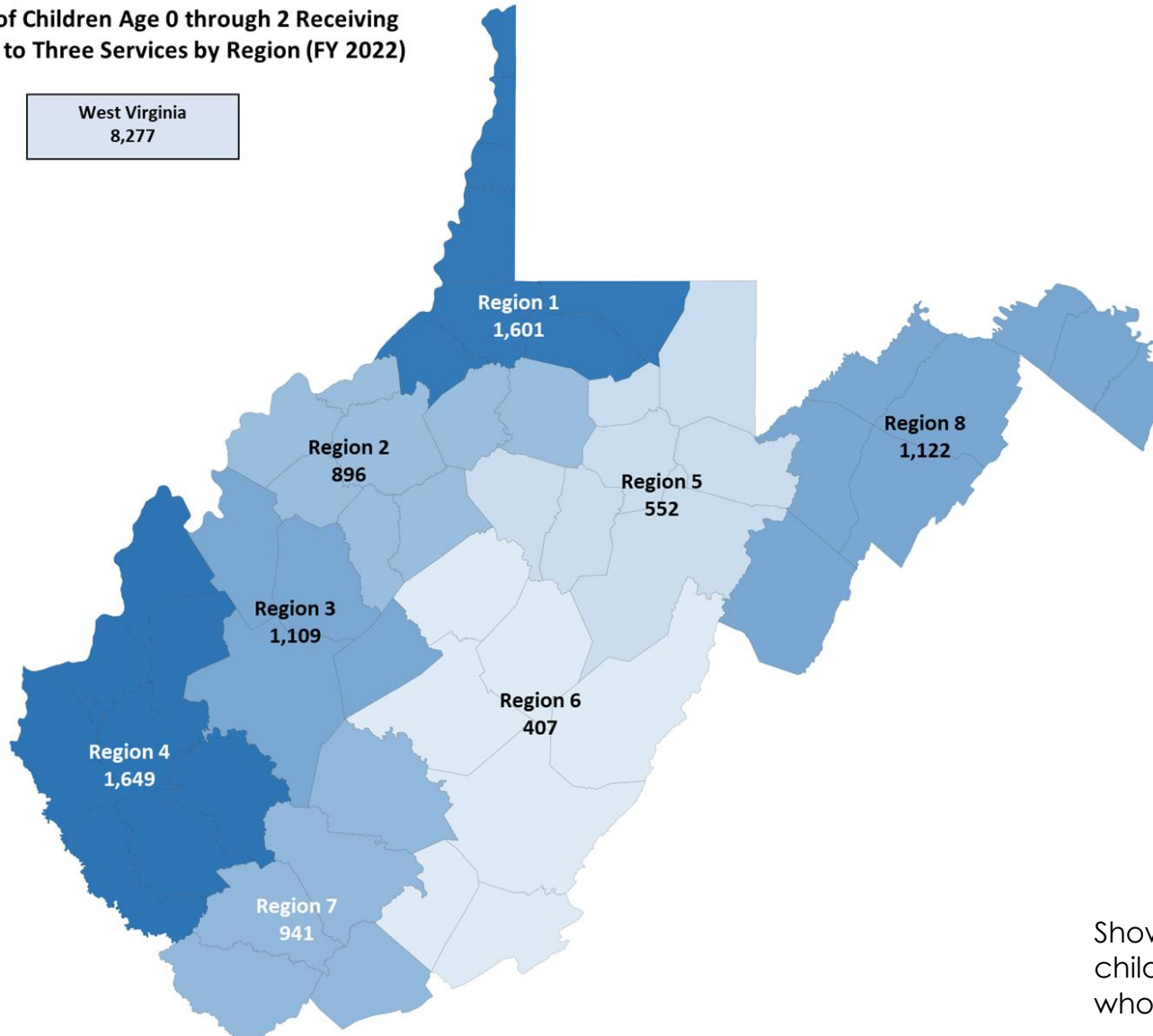
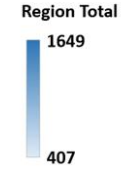
Shown here are the numbers of infants and toddlers in each county who received services.

© GeoNames, TomTom

Who Does WV Birth to Three Serve?

Number of Children Age 0 through 2 Receiving WV Birth to Three Services by Region (FY 2022)

West Virginia
8,277



Shown here is the number of children age 0-3 in each Region who received services.

To Learn More About the Services and Supports Offered to Families of Eligible Infants and Toddlers

WV Birth to Three
350 Capitol Street, Rm 427
Charleston, WV 25301-3714
<http://www.wvdhhr.org/birth23>

To Learn More About the Work of the WV GEIICC

WV Governor's Early Intervention Interagency Coordinating Council
PO Box 2438
Buckhannon, WV 26201
<http://www.wveiicc.org>

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