

Ohio County Boards of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disabilities

Services for Children Ages 0 – 21

Fact Sheet

Disabilities cross all age, ethnic, and socioeconomic boundaries, resulting in county boards of MR/DD serving individuals and families of all ages, races, and economic status. About 3-6% of the total population has a disability. In 2004, county boards served 31,460 people with disabilities on any given day. Taking into consideration that families and children move in and out of services, county boards of MR/DD realistically touch the lives of nearly 100,000 Ohioans.

Services for children ages 0 to 3:

- County Boards are an integral part of Ohio's *Help Me Grow* system.
- County Boards are the largest provider of early intervention services.
- Approximately 70% of the funding for early intervention services is provided by local MR/DD tax levies.
- Services vary with each county board and include eligibility evaluations for services under Part C of the Individual with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA); service coordination; child find; developmental specialist; occupational, physical and speech therapy; clinical supervision; ongoing developmental assessments; transportation.
- Each county board determines its level of participation locally in response to community need and the availability of resources.
- Services to children and families are provided in their home or community-based setting.

County board challenges in delivering services and supports:

- Providing adequate therapy
- Maintaining an adequate level of services amidst competing need for local dollars
- Family follow-through and reluctance to participate
- Lack of financial support
- Paperwork
- Increasing complexity of the needs of families
- Transportation

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Services for Children Ages 3 to 21

Fact Sheet

Services for children ages 3 to 21:

- County boards provide a variety of services to children ages 3 to 21 including preschool; school age educational services; consultative behavior support; transition support; service coordination; assistive technology; recreational services; technical support; respite.
- Each board's level of participation in the provision of educational services is determined locally in collaboration with local school districts, based on community needs and the availability of county board resources.
- Preschool and school age services are provided in collaboration with local school districts and follow the Ohio Department of Education rules per the Individual with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEIA).
- School age services offer parents and school districts a full continuum of services for individuals with intense disabilities in accordance with the student's individual education plan.
- County boards offering educational services may charge back all or a portion of the full tuition cost to the student's local school district.
- Case management (support and service coordination) services are provided to children determined eligible for MR/DD services.
- Respite services and family resource funding is available to eligible families.

County Board challenges in delivering services and supports:

- Maintaining an adequate level of services amidst the competing need for local dollars.
- Increasing complexity of the needs of family and continued and increasing need for MR/DD expertise and resources.
- Unclear delineation of MR/DD's role with services to this age group.
- Stronger collaboration with Ohio Department of Education and the Ohio Department of Health