

Parent Centers in Action 2018: Data Snapshot

Parent Centers are a lifeline of support for families of children, youth, and young adults with disabilities. The advocacy they provide is grounded in supporting, teaching, and leading families, and also in teaching them to advocate for their children and to *lead*—in their districts, in their communities, as parents and caregivers. Parent Centers also enable individuals with disabilities and special health care needs to become their own advocates and to have their voices heard as experts on themselves and their needs.

The data on these pages give a detailed snapshot of **who** Parent Centers serve, **how** they provide information and training, the **age** of the children involved, and much more. CPIR is pleased to share these data with you because they provide us all with a stunning portrait of what can be achieved by a few, extremely dedicated people for the benefit of so many.

**How many
Parent Centers
are there?**

94

How many times did Parent Centers connect with families, professionals, and youth with disabilities in 2017–2018?

> 1.1 million!

Ages and Disabilities of the Children

While Parent Centers offer information and training on **all** disabilities, here's a snapshot showing the disability categories for which families most often sought assistance in 2017–2018.

The Top 5 Disabilities of Children

| | |
|-------|------------------------------|
| 31.6% | Autism |
| 14.9% | Other Health Impairment |
| 12.1% | Specific Learning Disability |
| 8.5% | Intellectual Disability |
| 7.9% | Emotional Disturbance |

This is when many children enter the 1st grade and otherwise undetected or unrecognized disabilities may be identified for the first time.

Parent Centers have increased their focus on preparing youth with disabilities for adulthood, and providing transition planning and self-advocacy training as part of the initiative.

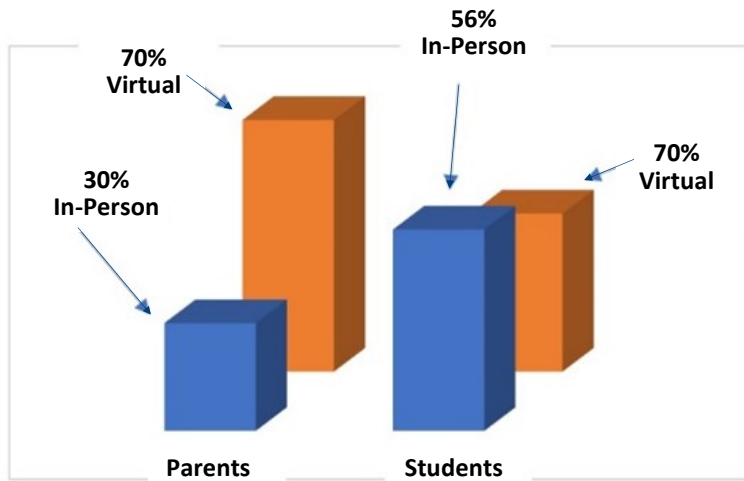
Ages of Children

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Birth to 3 | 5.6% |
| 3-5 years | 12.2% |
| 6-11 years | 36.8% |
| 12-14 years | 19.4% |
| 15 to graduation or age-out | 20.3% |
| HS grad to age-out | 5.7% |

The next chart show how old the children for whom information and assistance is being sought by parents are. The next data shows that >36% of the children served are between 6 and 11 years old.

Support for Parents

The number of e-mail and text contacts for parents just about equaled that of students. And while their kids are not using their phones for actual phone calls, parents sure are—the reach to parents via phone call was **almost 3 times higher** than that for students. Statistically, both parents and their kids are glued to their phones!



| | |
|---------|------------------------------|
| 165,278 | Reached by e-mail/text |
| 166,809 | Reached via phone call |
| 50,129 | Reached by in-person meeting |
| 10,781 | Reached by letter |

In-person trainings with parents were 1/3 of the amount attended by students. So while adults are more likely to make actual phone calls and speak to a person (rather than to send a text), students tend to show up IRL* to meetings.

Teen textspeak: “in real life”

Support for Students with Disabilities

It’s no surprise that students are best reached on their phones!

E-mails and texts are the best way to contact the younger generation, but in-person meetings were also a heavy percent of how services were provided to these tech-savvy young self-advocates.

| | |
|-------|------------------------------|
| 6,187 | Reached by e-mail/text |
| 4,812 | Reached by in-person meeting |
| 2,124 | Reached via phone call |
| 847 | Reached by letter |

Support for Professionals

Parent Centers bring disability awareness and best practices to professionals as a way to **improve the quality of care and support** that the array of service providers and community members offer.

This 3-year snapshot shows the total number of training and individual assistance contacts with professionals. The decrease in contacts with professionals during the 2016–2017 reporting period was due to two Parent Centers being unable to report as a result of natural disasters such as Hurricane Maria.

| | |
|---------|-----------|
| 360,392 | 2017-2018 |
| 278,948 | 2016-2017 |
| 292,072 | 2015-2016 |

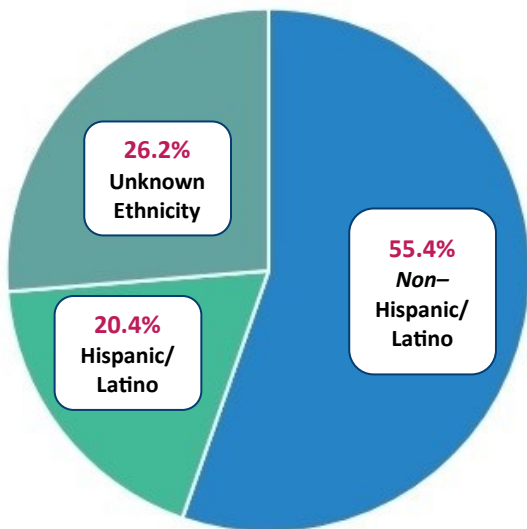
Who's Being Served, How, and in What Languages?

Key Demographics

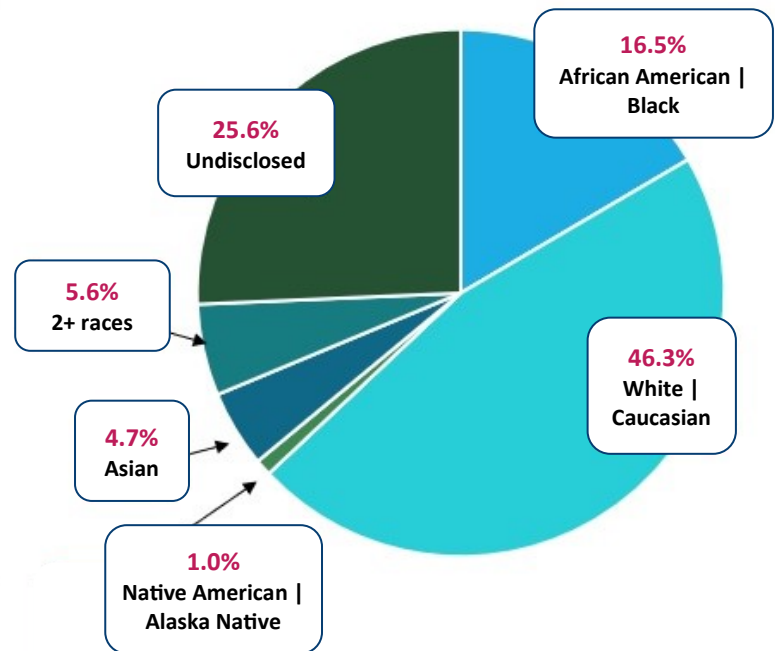
One of the core goals of the nationwide network of Parent Centers is to provide targeted assistance by **ethnicity and race** are central demographics measured by Parent Centers in their annual reporting.

As the data show, a majority of individuals served by Parent Centers are White/Caucasian, African American/Black, or Hispanic. Smaller percentages of other races and ethnicities are clearly part of the audiences in contact with their Parent Center, whether they are receiving individual assistance or training in-person or virtually.

Individual Assistance & Training by Ethnicity



Individual Assistance & Training by Race

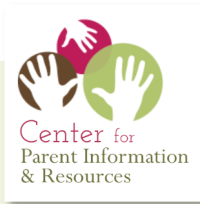


Languages

While English and Spanish continue to be the main languages in which Parent Centers provide their services, it's astonishing to see just how many different languages come into play. More than 35, in fact, including Navajo, Farsi, Russian, Hmong, Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean, Somali, and Arabic.

The ability of Parent Centers to **reach and help families in so many different languages** is one of their most valuable qualities.





User-Centered, User-Driven, National Technical Assistance for Parent Centers

A COLLABORATION BETWEEN SPAN PARENT ADVOCACY NETWORK,
PARENT TO PARENT GEORGIA, AND FHI360 INTERNATIONAL

The network of Regional and National Parent Technical Assistance Centers addresses Parent Centers' need for information and resources—especially those that can be used to build staff and leadership capacity. The Center for Parent Information & Resources (CPIR) provides universal technical assistance (TA) products and programs that include:

Our **website** (parentcenterhub.org) is a first stop for resources to meet the information needs of Parent Centers, professionals, and even parents. The CPIR maintains a resource library of more than 1,200 curated items as well as relevant items from the US Department of Education (USED)-funded centers and other trusted partners.

CPIR's highly-rated ***Buzz from the Hub*** e-newsletter (parentcenterhub.org/buzz-from-the-hub) and its social media vehicles are reliable sources of news from the US Departments of Education, Labor, and Health and Human Services; the Parent Center Network; and other key informants on the wide variety of topics upon which Parent Centers must stay apprised.

Four **Regional Parent Technical Assistance Centers (RPTACs)** (parentcenterhub.org/rptacs) provide targeted that addresses administrative and management challenges and increases Parent Centers' capacities to provide information and training to families of children with disabilities.

CONTACT US | malizo@spanadvocacy.org