

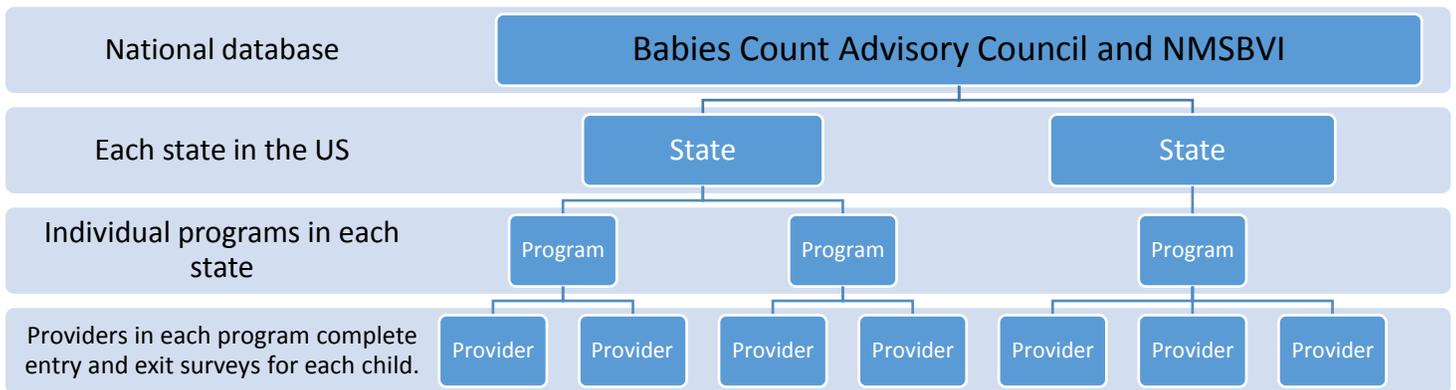


www.babiescount.org

Babies Count is a national registry of young children aged birth to 36 months of age with visual impairments that works in conjunction with public and private agencies to collect standardized epidemiological and demographic data regarding children, their visual conditions, and the systems created to support them and their families.

Data tells a story... what's OUR story?

Who are our children? What are their needs?
 What services do we provide...when...by whom?



- The Babies Count Advisory Council will analyze the national data yearly. This information will be shared with the field through a combined report and with each participating state.
- Each state will assign a lead agency and then enroll the individual agencies within the state that serve B-3 children who are blind/visually impaired.
- Each state has access to their entry surveys and can create reports of this information.
- Each individual agency will create its own system for completion of surveys and training its staff. National training materials are being created.
- Providers in each program will complete a survey online for each child on his or her caseload, both at **entry and at exit** to the program.
- Each question on the survey has available technical assistance and suggests ways to sensitively gather the information.
- Survey contains 37 questions within 4 categories: A) Child and Family, B) Medical and Visual, C) Early Intervention Services, and D) Program Exit.
- Sections A, B, and C are done at entry; Section A, B, C, and D are done at exit, with 3 sections pre-filled from entry.
- It is recommended to complete with families, but all questions are not required and respect families' privacy.

Together, we can tell the story of young children with VI.

This information is critical as we develop and improve early learning programs.

We need an accurate description of our population and their needs in order to:

- 1) Create pre-service teacher preparation and post professional development and
- 2) Justify funding of direct service programs