

Pennsylvania's Early Intervention Program



CONNECT to Early Intervention

CONNECT puts families in touch with the people who can help.

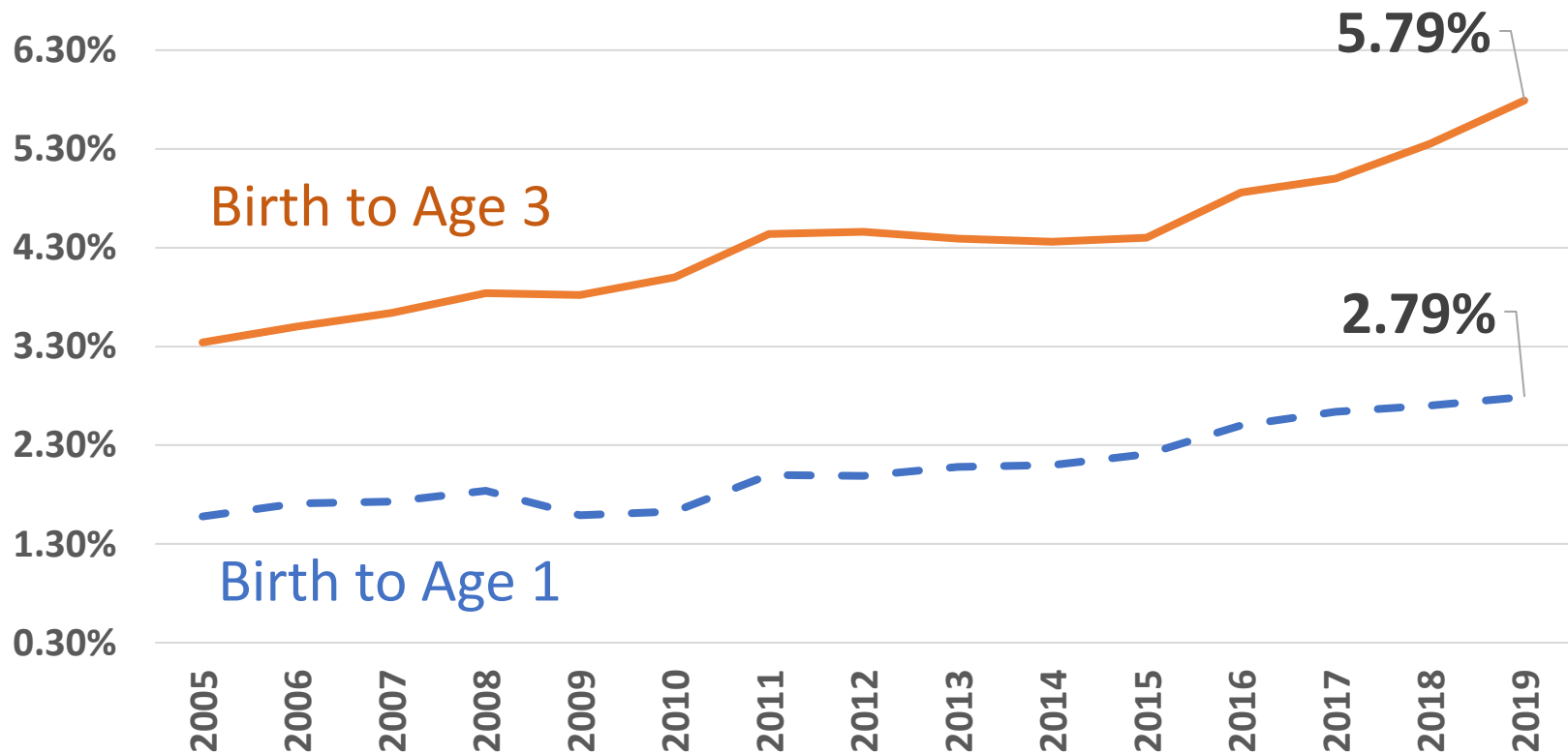
Call the CONNECT Helpline:
1-800-692-7288

Email CONNECT:
help@connectpa.net

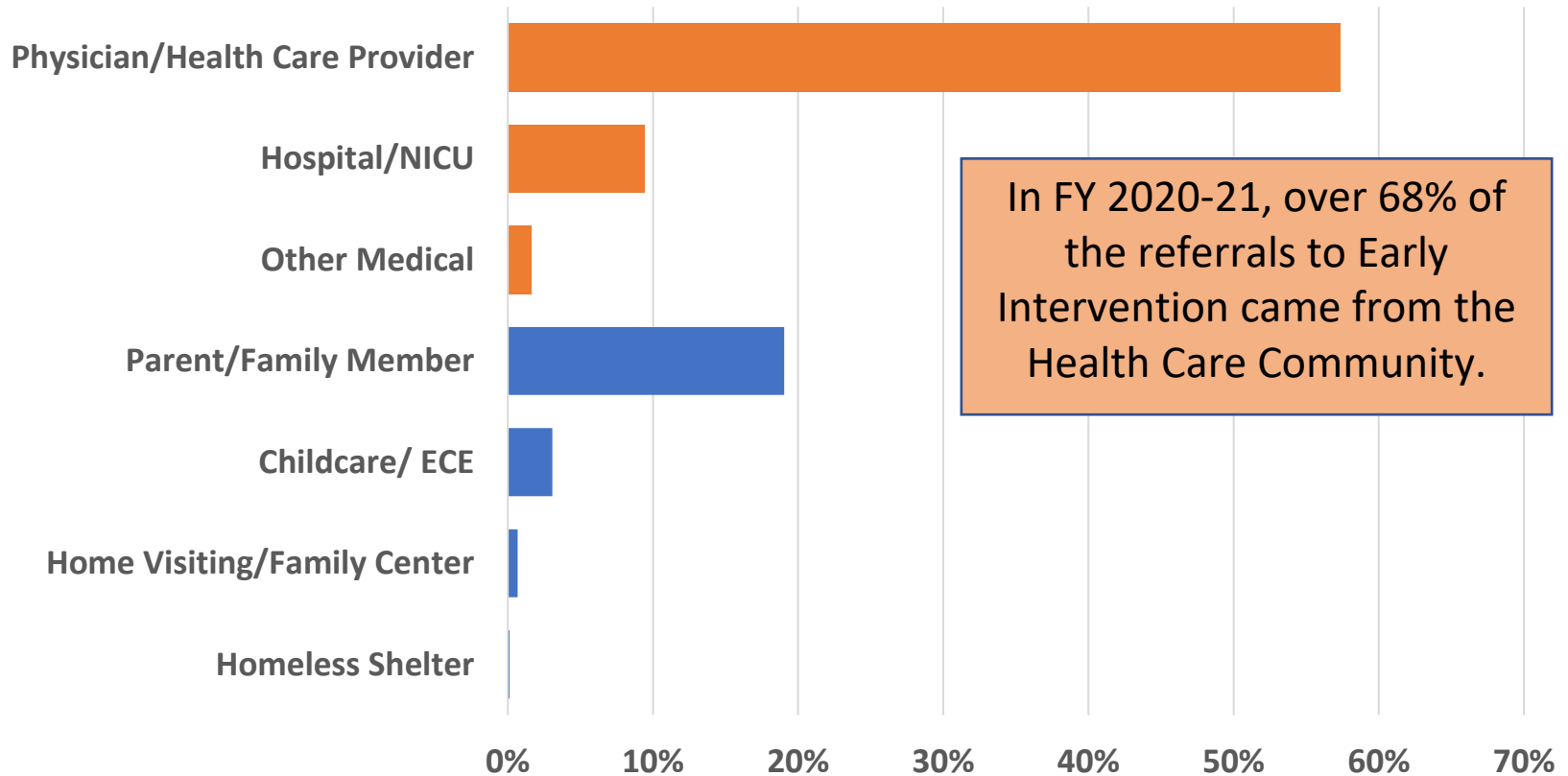
[Submit a form online](#)



CONNECTING with children as young as possible



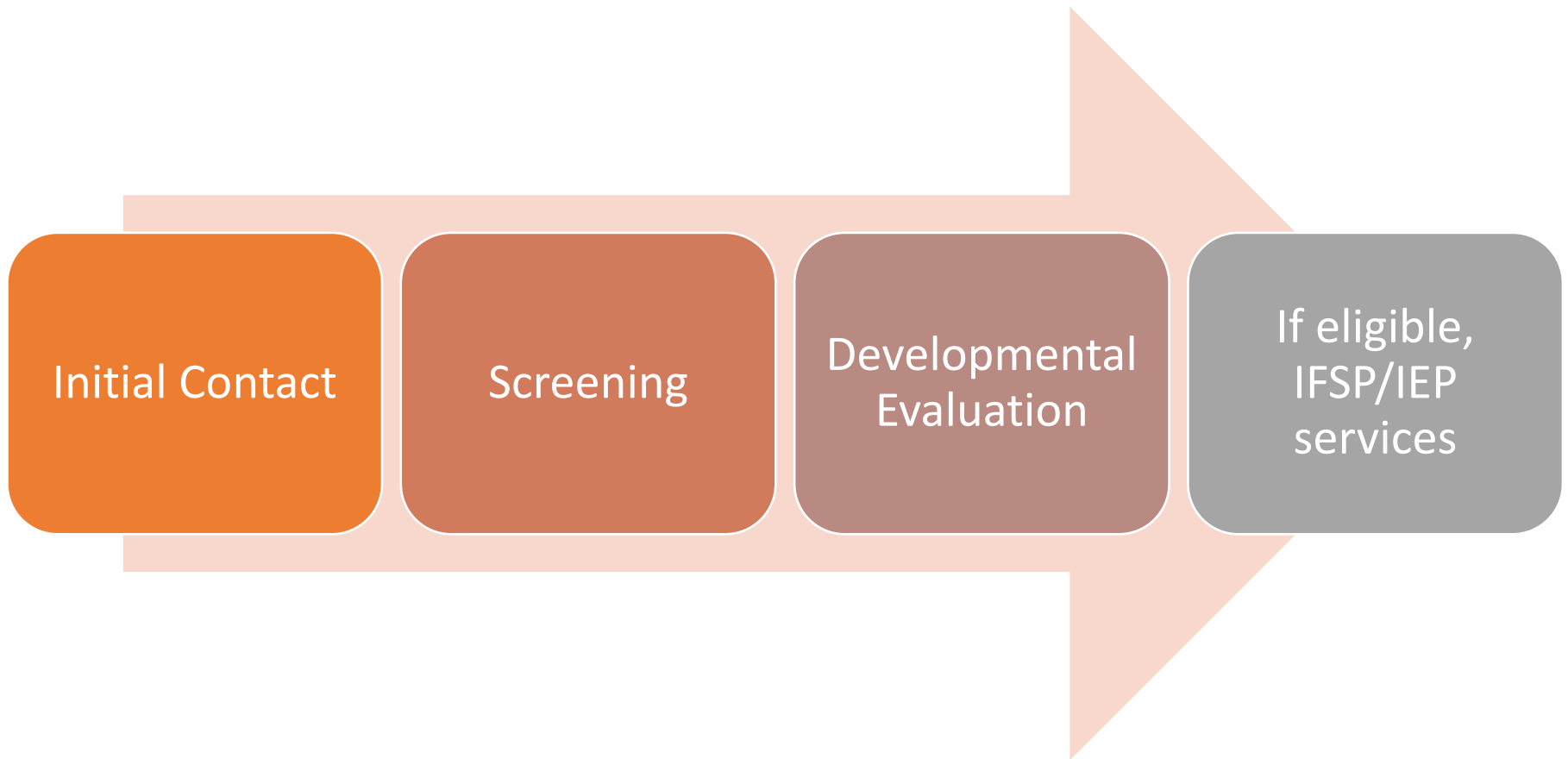
The Health Care Community leads in referrals to Early Intervention



Four Steps to Ensuring a Smooth Referral

1. Talk to family about your concerns
 2. Talk to family about the Early Intervention Referral Process
 3. Check back with the family about their referral
 4. Document referral information and concerns for the receiving physician
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How does Early Intervention work?



Early Intervention Tracking Program

An infant or toddler may be eligible for tracking services if they are at risk for a developmental delay due to:

- Low birth weight
- Cared for in a hospital's neonatal intensive care unit (NICU)
- Prenatal substance exposure, including alcohol exposure
- Referred by a county children and youth agency
- Exposed to lead
- Experiencing homelessness
- County follow up

Early Intervention Service Delivery

- Provide services through coaching supports
- Evidence-based and individualized for the child and his or her family, caregiver, and early childhood education
- Young children learn best through everyday experiences and interactions with nurturing people in familiar contexts



Resources for Returning to School for Young Children



[Supporting Families During COVID-19 - Early Intervention Technical Assistance Online Learning Portal \(eita-pa.org\)](#)

- [Resources for Masks for Children](#): OCDEL is sharing this list of resources for program staff and families. These resources do not, and are not intended to, prescribe specific guidance about mask wearing for children.
- [Wearing Masks](#): These scripted stories, with their colorful and fun photographs of children and families, help explain to children the how, why, and when of wearing face masks during the COVID-19 pandemic. Also available in [Spanish](#).
- [Helping Children Understand Emotions When Wearing Masks](#): These tips and ideas help children identify emotions when faces, our most expressive feature, are covered by a mask. Parents and practitioners can use these strategies to let children know that behind the mask, a kind and warm expression is still there.
- [Greetings While Social Distancing](#): This colorful greeting board uses expressive photos of children to demonstrate ways to greet each other while maintaining social distancing. In English and Spanish, the examples included are air hug, elbow bump and thumbs up.

Resources for Returning to School for Young Children



[Professionals - Early Intervention Technical Assistance Online Learning Portal \(eita-pa.org\)](#)

- [Considerations for Returning to School for Young Children](#): Children, staff, and families alike may all struggle with the “back to school blues.” Download this new list of resources to support the return to school. There are videos, scripted strategies, and more that families and professionals can use to make the return to school easier on everyone, even the youngest learners.

Early Intervention and Health Care Partnerships

- Data sharing agreements with DOH
- Multi-Disciplinary Workgroup on Infants who are Substance Exposed (MDWISE)
 - Plans of Safe Care
- DHS/DOH Maternal Child Health collaborative work
 - Expanding MA coverage; home visiting; doulas...
- Pritzker Implementation Grant
- Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (ECCS)
Prenatal to 3 Health Integration Grant

County Spotlight

Jennifer Hawbecker
Early Intervention Coordinator
Franklin Fulton Early Intervention
Program

Franklin County

- Population - approximately 155,000
- Currently providing Early Intervention services to 339 children and families
- Two hospitals
 - WellSpan Chambersburg Hospital
 - Level 1 Nursery
 - Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Level II (opened in January 2016)
 - WellSpan Waynesboro Hospital
 - Currently all deliveries are at Chambersburg Hospital

Fulton County

- Population - approximately 15,000
- Currently providing Early Intervention services to 18 children and families
- One hospital
 - Fulton County Medical Center
 - No Birthing Center – Most deliveries are at Chambersburg Hospital or Meritus Health, Hagerstown, MD

Collaborating with referral sources

- WellSpan York Hospital NICU
 - WellSpan Chambersburg Hospital NICU
 - Keystone Pediatrics
 - Other area Pediatric practices
-

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For further questions, please
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Questions before Breakout