

**Table 53.—Children 0 to 21 years old served in federally supported programs for the disabled, by type of disability: 1976–77 to 1998–99**

Type of disability	1976–77	1980–81	1986–87	1987–88	1988–89	1989–90	1990–91	1991–92	1992–93	1993–94	1994–95	1995–96	1996–97	1997–98	1998–99
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Number served, <sup>1</sup> in thousands															
<b>All disabilities</b> .....	<b>3,694</b>	<b>4,144</b>	<b>4,376</b>	<b>4,439</b>	<b>4,529</b>	<b>4,631</b>	<b>4,761</b>	<b>4,941</b>	<b>5,111</b>	<b>5,309</b>	<b>5,378</b>	<b>5,573</b>	<b>5,729</b>	<b>5,903</b>	<b>6,055</b>
Specific learning disabilities .....	796	1,462	1,914	1,928	1,984	2,047	2,129	2,232	2,351	2,408	2,489	2,579	2,649	2,725	2,789
Speech or language impairments .....	1,302	1,168	1,136	950	964	971	985	996	994	1,014	1,015	1,022	1,043	1,056	1,068
Mental retardation .....	961	830	644	580	560	547	535	537	518	536	555	570	579	589	597
Serious emotional disturbance .....	283	347	383	371	372	380	390	399	400	414	427	438	445	453	462
Hearing impairments .....	88	79	65	56	56	57	58	60	60	64	64	67	68	69	70
Orthopedic impairments .....	87	58	57	46	47	48	49	51	52	56	60	63	66	67	69
Other health impairments .....	141	98	52	45	50	52	55	58	65	82	106	133	160	190	221
Visual impairments .....	38	31	26	22	22	22	23	24	23	24	24	25	25	25	26
Multiple disabilities .....	—	68	97	77	83	86	96	97	102	108	88	93	98	106	106
Deaf-blindness .....	—	3	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Autism and traumatic brain injury .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	19	24	29	39	44	54	67
Developmental delay .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	12
Preschool disabled <sup>2</sup> .....	196	231	263	332	357	381	390	416	450	487	519	544	552	564	568
Infants and toddlers .....	—	—	—	30	34	37	51	66	75	92	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage distribution of children served															
<b>All disabilities</b> .....	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
Specific learning disabilities .....	21.5	35.3	43.7	43.4	43.8	44.2	44.7	45.2	46.0	45.4	46.3	46.3	46.2	46.2	46.0
Speech or language impairments .....	35.2	28.2	26.0	21.4	21.3	21.0	20.7	20.2	19.5	19.1	18.9	18.3	18.2	17.9	17.6
Mental retardation .....	26.0	20.0	14.7	13.1	12.4	11.8	11.2	10.9	10.1	10.1	10.3	10.2	10.1	10.0	9.9
Serious emotional disturbance .....	7.7	8.4	8.7	8.4	8.2	8.2	8.2	8.1	7.8	7.8	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.7	7.6
Hearing impairments .....	2.4	1.9	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Orthopedic impairments .....	2.4	1.4	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1	1.1
Other health impairments .....	3.8	2.4	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.5	2.0	2.4	2.8	3.2	3.6
Visual impairments .....	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Multiple disabilities .....	—	1.6	2.2	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8	1.8
Deaf-blindness .....	—	0.1	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )	( <sup>3</sup> )
Autism and traumatic brain injury .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.1	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.1
Developmental delay .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.1	0.2
Preschool disabled <sup>2</sup> .....	5.3	5.6	6.0	7.5	7.9	8.2	8.2	8.4	8.8	9.2	9.7	9.8	9.6	9.6	9.4
Infants and toddlers .....	—	—	—	0.7	0.8	0.8	1.1	1.3	1.5	1.7	—	—	—	—	—
Number served as a percent of total enrollment <sup>4</sup>															
<b>All disabilities</b> .....	<b>8.32</b>	<b>10.14</b>	<b>11.00</b>	<b>11.02</b>	<b>11.18</b>	<b>11.32</b>	<b>11.43</b>	<b>11.59</b>	<b>11.76</b>	<b>12.00</b>	<b>12.19</b>	<b>12.43</b>	<b>12.56</b>	<b>12.80</b>	<b>13.01</b>
Specific learning disabilities .....	1.80	3.58	4.81	4.82	4.94	5.05	5.17	5.31	5.49	5.54	5.64	5.75	5.81	5.91	5.99
Speech or language impairments .....	2.94	2.86	2.86	2.37	2.40	2.40	2.39	2.37	2.32	2.33	2.30	2.28	2.29	2.29	2.30
Mental retardation .....	2.17	2.03	1.62	1.45	1.39	1.35	1.30	1.28	1.21	1.23	1.26	1.27	1.27	1.28	1.28
Serious emotional disturbance .....	0.64	0.85	0.96	0.93	0.93	0.94	0.95	0.95	0.93	0.95	0.97	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.99
Hearing impairments .....	0.20	0.19	0.16	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15
Orthopedic impairments .....	0.20	0.14	0.14	0.11	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.15	0.15
Other health impairments .....	0.32	0.24	0.13	0.11	0.12	0.13	0.13	0.14	0.15	0.19	0.24	0.30	0.35	0.41	0.47
Visual impairments .....	0.09	0.08	0.07	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05	0.06
Multiple disabilities .....	—	0.17	0.24	0.19	0.21	0.21	0.23	0.23	0.24	0.25	0.20	0.21	0.21	0.23	0.23
Deaf-blindness .....	—	0.01	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )	( <sup>5</sup> )
Autism and traumatic brain injury .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.01	0.04	0.06	0.07	0.09	0.10	0.12	0.14
Developmental delay .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.01	0.03
Preschool disabled <sup>2</sup> .....	0.44	0.57	0.66	0.83	0.89	0.94	0.95	0.99	1.05	1.12	1.18	1.21	1.21	1.22	1.22
Infants and toddlers .....	—	—	—	0.07	0.08	0.09	0.12	0.16	0.18	0.21	—	—	—	—	—

—Not available.

<sup>1</sup> Includes students served under Chapter I and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), formerly the Education of the Handicapped Act. Prior to October 1994, children and youth with disabilities were served under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Part B, and Chapter 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. In October 1994, Congress passed the Improving America's Schools Act in which funding for children and youth with disabilities was consolidated under IDEA, Part B. Data reported in this table for years prior to 1993–94, include children ages 0–21 served under Chapter 1. Data reported in this table for years after 1993–94 reflect children ages 3–21 served under IDEA, Part B.

<sup>2</sup> Includes preschool children 3–5 years served under Chapter I and IDEA, Part B. Prior to 1987–88, these students were included in the counts by disability condition. Beginning in 1987–88, states were no longer required to report preschool children (0–5 years) by disability condition.

<sup>3</sup> Less than 0.05 percent.

<sup>4</sup> Based on the enrollment in public schools, kindergarten through 12th grade, including a relatively small number of prekindergarten students.

<sup>5</sup> Less than .005 percent.

NOTE: Counts are based on reports from the 50 states and District of Columbia only (i.e., figures from outlying areas are not included). Increases since 1987–88 are due in part to new legislation enacted fall 1986, which mandates public school special education services for all handicapped children ages 3 through 5. Some data have been revised from previously published figures. Detail may not sum to totals due to rounding.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services, *Annual Report to Congress on the Implementation of The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*, various years, and unpublished tabulations; and National Center for Education Statistics, Common Core of Data survey. (This table was prepared June 2000.)