

Table 53.—Children 0 to 21 years old served in federally supported programs for the disabled, by type of disability: 1976–77 to 1997–98

Type of disability	1976–77	1980–81	1985–86	1986–87	1987–88	1988–89	1989–90	1990–91	1991–92	1992–93	1993–94	1994–95	1995–96	1996–97	1997–98
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Number served, ¹ in thousands															
All disabilities	3,692	4,142	4,317	4,374	4,447	4,527	4,641	4,761	4,949	5,176	5,365	5,378	5,573	5,729	5,904
Specific learning disabilities	796	1,462	1,862	1,914	1,928	1,970	2,050	2,130	2,234	2,351	2,408	2,489	2,579	2,649	2,726
Speech or language impairments	1,302	1,168	1,125	1,136	953	967	973	985	997	994	1,014	1,015	1,022	1,043	1,059
Mental retardation	959	829	660	643	582	564	548	534	538	518	536	555	570	579	589
Serious emotional disturbance	283	346	375	383	373	376	381	390	399	400	414	427	438	445	453
Hearing impairments	87	79	66	65	56	56	57	58	60	60	64	64	67	68	69
Orthopedic impairments	87	58	57	57	47	47	48	49	51	52	56	60	63	66	67
Other health impairments	141	98	57	52	45	43	52	55	58	65	82	106	133	160	190
Visual impairments	38	31	27	26	22	23	22	23	24	23	24	24	25	25	25
Multiple disabilities	—	68	86	97	77	85	86	96	97	102	108	88	93	98	106
Deaf-blindness	—	3	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Autism and traumatic brain injury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	19	24	29	39	44	54
Developmental delay	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Preschool disabled ²	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	363	394	422	441	484	590	634	519	544	552	564
Percentage distribution of children served															
All disabilities	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Specific learning disabilities	21.6	35.3	43.1	43.8	43.4	43.6	44.2	44.7	45.1	45.4	44.9	46.3	46.3	46.2	46.2
Speech or language impairments	35.3	28.2	26.1	26.0	21.4	21.1	21.0	20.7	20.2	19.2	18.9	18.9	18.3	18.2	17.9
Mental retardation	26.0	20.0	15.3	14.7	13.1	12.7	11.8	11.2	10.9	10.0	10.0	10.3	10.2	10.1	10.0
Serious emotional disturbance	7.7	8.4	8.7	8.8	8.4	8.3	8.2	8.2	8.1	7.7	7.7	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.7
Hearing impairments	2.4	1.9	1.5	1.5	1.3	1.3	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	1.3	1.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1
Other health impairments	3.8	2.4	1.3	1.2	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.5	2.0	2.4	2.8	3.2
Visual impairments	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.6	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Multiple disabilities	—	1.6	2.0	2.2	1.7	1.8	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.6	1.7	1.7	1.8
Deaf-blindness	—	0.1	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)	(⁴)
Autism and traumatic brain injury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.1	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.7	0.8	0.9
Developmental delay	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(⁴)
Preschool disabled ²	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	8.2	8.7	9.1	9.3	9.8	11.4	11.8	9.7	9.8	9.6	9.6
Number served as a percent of total enrollment ⁵															
All disabilities	8.33	10.13	10.95	11.00	11.11	11.26	11.44	11.55	11.77	12.08	12.34	12.19	12.43	12.56	12.80
Specific learning disabilities	1.80	3.58	4.72	4.81	4.82	4.90	5.06	5.17	5.31	5.49	5.54	5.64	5.75	5.81	5.91
Speech or language impairments	2.94	2.86	2.85	2.86	2.38	2.41	2.40	2.39	2.37	2.32	2.33	2.30	2.28	2.29	2.30
Mental retardation	2.16	2.03	1.68	1.62	1.45	1.40	1.35	1.30	1.28	1.21	1.23	1.26	1.27	1.27	1.28
Serious emotional disturbance	0.64	0.85	0.95	0.96	0.93	0.94	0.94	0.95	0.95	0.94	0.95	0.97	0.98	0.98	0.98
Hearing impairments	0.20	0.19	0.17	0.16	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	0.14	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.15
Other health impairments	0.32	0.24	0.14	0.13	0.11	0.11	0.13	0.13	0.14	0.15	0.19	0.24	0.30	0.35	0.41
Visual impairments	0.09	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05
Multiple disabilities	—	0.17	0.22	0.24	0.19	0.21	0.21	0.23	0.23	0.24	0.25	0.20	0.21	0.21	0.23
Deaf-blindness	—	0.01	0.01	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)	(⁶)
Autism and traumatic brain injury	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.01	0.04	0.06	0.07	0.09	0.10	0.12
Developmental delay	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	(⁶)
Preschool disabled ²	(³)	(³)	(³)	(³)	0.91	0.98	1.04	1.07	1.15	1.38	1.46	1.18	1.21	1.21	1.22

¹ 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.

² Includes preschool children 3–5 years and 0–5 years served under Chapter I and IDEA, respectively.

³ Prior to 1987–88, these students were included in the counts by handicapping condition. Beginning in 1987–88, states were no longer required to report preschool handicapped students (0–5 years) by handicapping condition.

⁴ Less than 0.05 percent.

⁵ Based on the enrollment in public schools, kindergarten through 12th grade, including a relatively small number of prekindergarten students.

⁶ Less than .005 percent.
—Data not available.

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. Because of rounding, details may not add to totals.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative 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 August 1999.)