

# Early Head Start Home-Based Option

[Early Head Start Home-Based Option](#) (EHS) provides individualized services to pregnant women, infants, and toddlers to promote the school readiness of young children from families with low incomes. The model is administered by the Office of Head Start in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration for Children and Families. EHS promotes the school readiness of children from birth to 3 years old by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development.

<p><b>What is the model's approach to providing home visiting services?</b></p>	<p>Home visits take place weekly. Services are provided until the child is 3 years old. There are no age requirements for when families should begin services.</p> <p>EHS' service population includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Families with low incomes</li> <li> Caregivers under 21 years old</li> <li> Caregivers with limited access to education</li> <li> Children with developmental delays or disabilities</li> <li> Children with special health care needs</li> <li> Families with a history of substance use or in need of treatment</li> <li> Families with a history of child abuse or neglect/involvement with child welfare system</li> <li> Families experiencing homelessness</li> <li> Children in foster care</li> </ul>
<p><b>Who is implementing the model?</b></p>	<p><b>Home Visitors</b></p> <p>EHS was implemented by 5,251 home visitors in 2023. The model requires a home-based Child Development Associate credential, comparable credential, or equivalent coursework as part of an associate’s or bachelor’s degree. Home visitors are required to maintain an average caseload of 10 to 12 families.</p> <p><b>Supervisors</b></p> <p>The model requires a bachelor’s or other advanced degree with coursework in early childhood education and early education experience for supervisors.</p>
<p><b>Where is the model implemented?</b></p>	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;"> <p>EHS operated in 824 local agencies across 49 states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands in 2023.</p> </div> </div>

The NHVRC is a partnership of James Bell Associates and the Urban Institute. Support is provided by the Heising-Simons Foundation. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect the views of the foundation. For a detailed methodology, see the *2024 Home Visiting Yearbook*.

# Early Head Start Home-Based Option

Families Served Through Evidence-Based Home Visiting in 2023



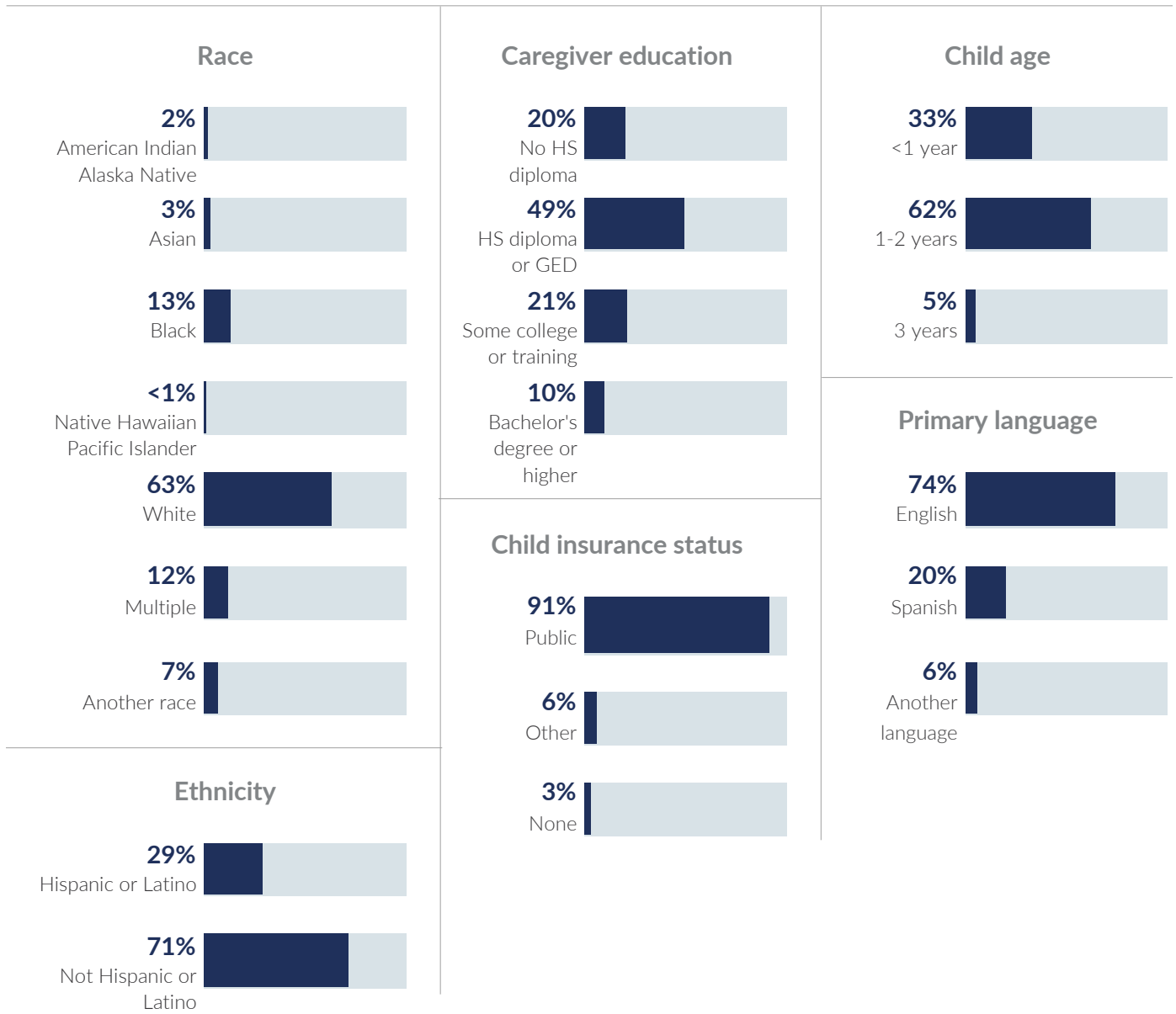
**771,696**

estimated home visits provided



**57,208**

children served



Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding. • Data for 16,776 children and 14,257 families are described in the demographics. • Other insurance includes state-only funded insurance and private insurance.