

**ECLS-B Preschool Sample and Population Sizes  
and  
ECLS-B Preschool Response Rates**

Table 1. Percentage distribution of children born in 2001 at preschool-year follow-up, by child and family characteristics: 2005-06

Characteristics	Sample (rounded to the nearest 50)	Population (rounded to the nearest hundred)	Population percentage
Total	8,900	3,939,800	100
Child's race/ethnicity			
White, non-Hispanic	3,900	2,116,500	54
Black, non-Hispanic	1,350	544,000	14
Hispanic	1,750	985,400	25
Asian, non-Hispanic	900	101,500	3
Other, non-Hispanic	1,000	184,500	5
Child's assessment age			
Less than 48 months	1,250	645,000	16
48 months	550	282,300	7
49 months	550	273,200	7
50 months	650	333,500	8
51 months	650	314,800	8
52 months	700	296,100	8
53 months	750	301,600	8
54 months	800	357,600	9
55 months	800	313,700	8
56 months	750	270,400	7
57 months	500	195,300	5
More than 57 months	950	355,900	9
Mother's education			
Less than high school	1,250	606,600	16
HS diploma/GED/some college/VOTECH	5,000	2,290,500	59
Bachelor's degree or higher	2,600	1,012,600	26
Poverty status			
Below poverty threshold	2,150	976,700	25
At or above poverty threshold	6,750	2,963,000	75
Primary language spoken in the home			
Non-English	1,750	724,500	19
English	7,100	3,200,600	82

# Estimate rounds to zero.

<sup>1</sup>The total sample size in this column reflects the number of children with parent interview data from the preschool follow-up data collection.

NOTE: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding and/or missing data. Estimates weighted by W3R0.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Early Childhood Longitudinal Study, Birth Cohort (ECLS-B), Longitudinal 9-Month-Preschool Restricted-Use Data File (NCES 2008-024).

## Response Rates

Response rates can be either unweighted or weighted. The unweighted rate, computed using the raw number of cases, provides a useful description of the success of the operational aspects of the survey. The weighted rate, computed by summing the weights (usually the reciprocals of the probability of selecting the units) for both the numerator and denominator, gives a better description of the success of the survey with respect to the population sampled, since the weights allow for inference of the sample data (including response status) to the population level. Both rates are usually similar unless the probabilities of selection and the unit response rates in the categories with different selection probabilities vary considerably.

### Weighted Response Rates

The weighted unit response rate for the preschool-year parent interview, calculated as the weighted number of children with completed preschool parent interviews divided by the weighted number of children eligible to participate in the preschool collection, is 91.3 percent.

Some cases that have a completed parent interview did not complete one or more of the other study components. Therefore, it is necessary to calculate separate weighted unit response rates for these components. The weighted unit response rate for the preschool child assessment is 98.3 percent. The weighted unit response rate for the resident father questionnaire, calculated for cases where a resident father was living in the household with the sampled child, is 87.7 percent. The weighted unit response rate for the early care and education provider (ECEP) interview, calculated for cases in which the child had a regular early care and education arrangement, is 87.4 percent. The weighted unit response rate for the child care observation (CCO), calculated for cases with a complete child care provider interview and sampled for the CCO, is 56.8 percent. All weighted response weights were calculated by using the base weight.

The unit response rate is a round-specific rate in that it indicates the proportion of the eligible sample responding to a survey at a particular time point. For a longitudinal study such as the ECLS-B, it is also useful to calculate a longitudinal response rate, also called an overall unit response rate, which takes into account response for all rounds of collection. For example, for the 9-month collection, the weighted overall unit response rate was 74.1 percent (after substitution); this rate dropped to 69.0 percent when the 2-year parent data collection was taken into account. Therefore, the preschool overall unit response rate for the ECLS-B indicates the proportion of all eligible cases originally sampled for the 9-month collection that participated at preschool. This rate is 63.1 percent when the preschool parent data collection is included, and drops to 62.0 percent when the preschool child assessment unit response was taken into account. The overall weighted response rate at preschool is 55.3 percent for resident fathers; 55.1 for the Early Care and Education Provider (ECEP); and 35.8 percent for the Child Care Observation (CCO).

### Unweighted Response Rates

Unweighted unit response rates are calculated in the same way as weighted response rates, but with unweighted numbers. The unweighted unit response rate for the preschool parent interview was 91.2 percent. The unweighted unit response rate for the preschool child assessment was 97.9 percent. The unweighted unit response rate for the Resident Father Questionnaire was 87.0 percent. The unweighted unit response rate for the Early Care and Education Provider (ECEP) Interview was 86.4 percent. The unweighted unit response rate for the Child Care Observation (CCO) was 54.9 percent.