



# Early Head Start (EHS) and Military and Families Partnerships 18 Annual Birth to Three Institute Tuesday, July 29, 2014

Presented by **Christina Benjamin and  
Jennifer Boss, Early Head Start National  
Resource Center and Dorinda Williams,  
ZERO TO THREE**



# Objectives

1

Identify the status of military and veteran families being served in EHS

2

Explore current context for military and veteran families with very young children

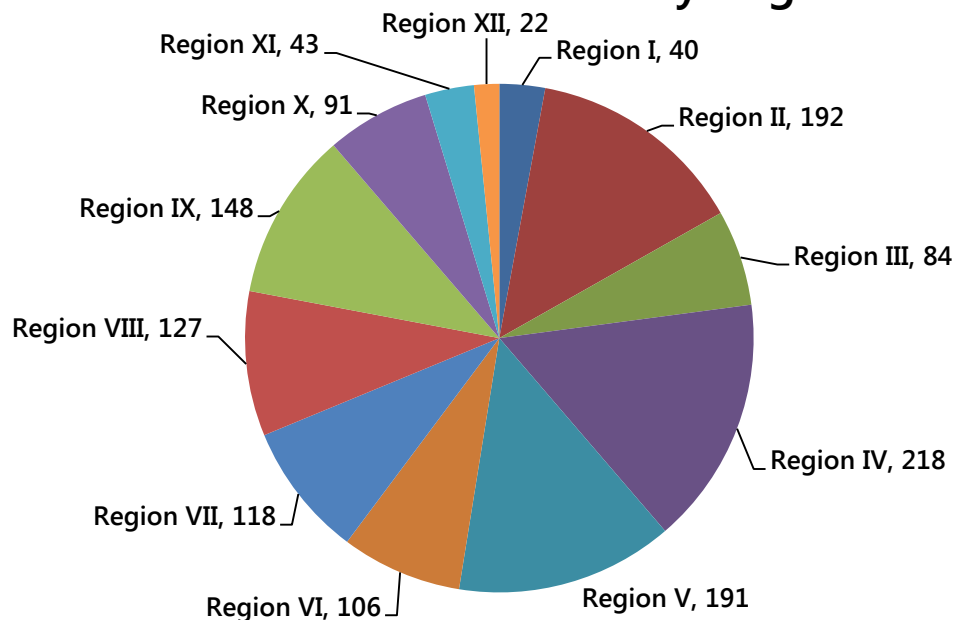
3

Explore ways EHS programs can effectively engage with military and veteran families

# EHS and MSHS Programs Serving Active Duty Military Families

According to the 2012 – 2013 Program Information Report (PIR), 1,394 active duty military families were served in EHS and MSHS programs.

## Active Duty Military Families Served in EHS & MSHS by Region



# EHS and MSHS Programs Serving Active Duty Military Families



- Early Head Start (EHS) and Migrant and Seasonal Head Start (MSHS) programs were invited to participate in needs assessment
- 28 programs responded
- 16 programs currently serve both military and/or veteran families

# EHS and MSHS Programs Serving Active Duty Military Families



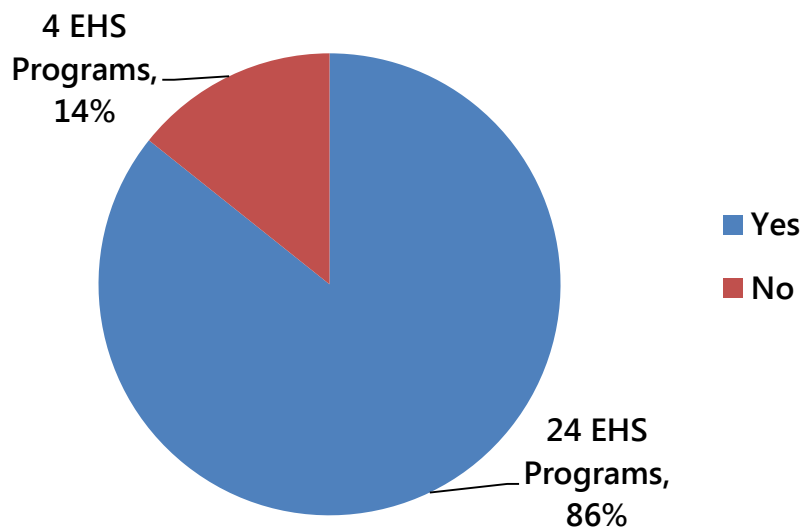
- 12 programs reported not currently serving military and/or veteran families for the following reasons:
  - Ineligibility for EHS services
  - Lack of military or veteran families in service area
  - Active duty or veteran families not applying for EHS
  - Attempts to connect with military families have not been successful

Photo Courtesy of Julia Yeary

# EHS and MSHS Programs Serving Active Duty Military Families

- Do you ask families to identify if they are connected to someone in the military or to someone who has served in the military?*

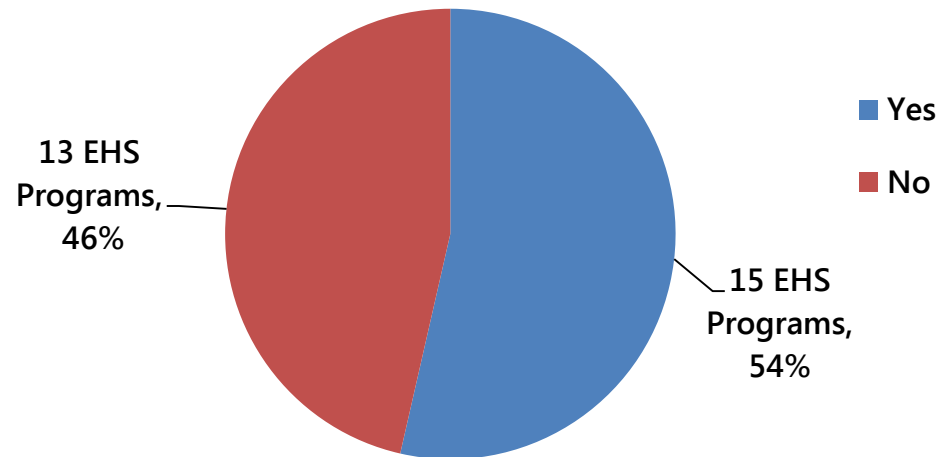
Figure 1:  
EHS Programs Collecting Information on  
Military Status of EHS Families



# EHS and MSHS Programs Serving Active Duty Military Families

- Are you currently serving active duty military families and/or National Guard/Reserve families in your EHS and MSHS program?*

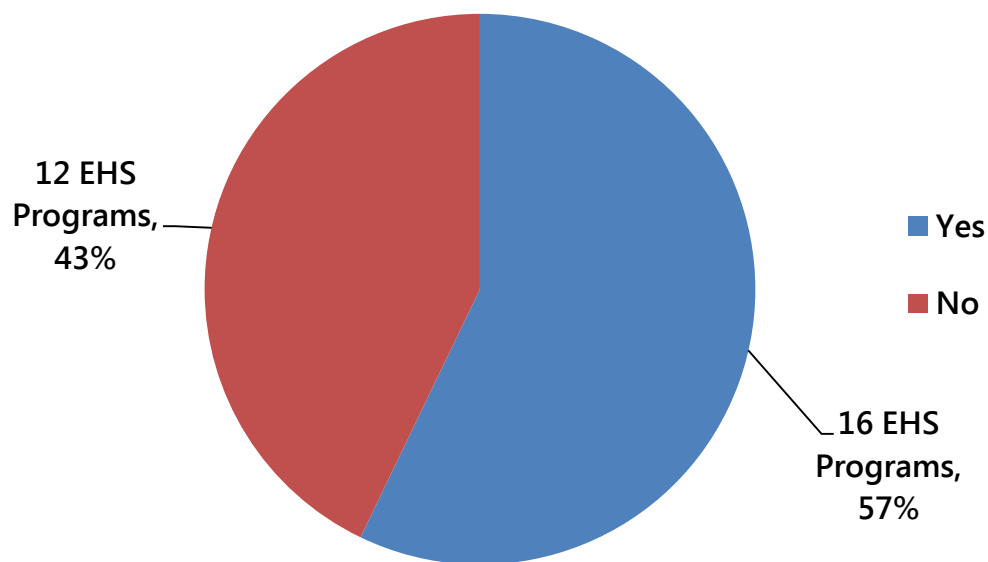
Figure 2:  
EHS Programs Serving Active Duty,  
National Guard, and Reserve Families



# EHS and MSHS Programs Serving Active Duty Military Families

- Are you currently serving veteran families in your EHS and MSHS program?*

Figure 3:  
EHS Programs Serving Veteran Families





# EHS and MSHS Programs Serving Active Duty Military Families



Photo Courtesy of Kiwi Street Studios

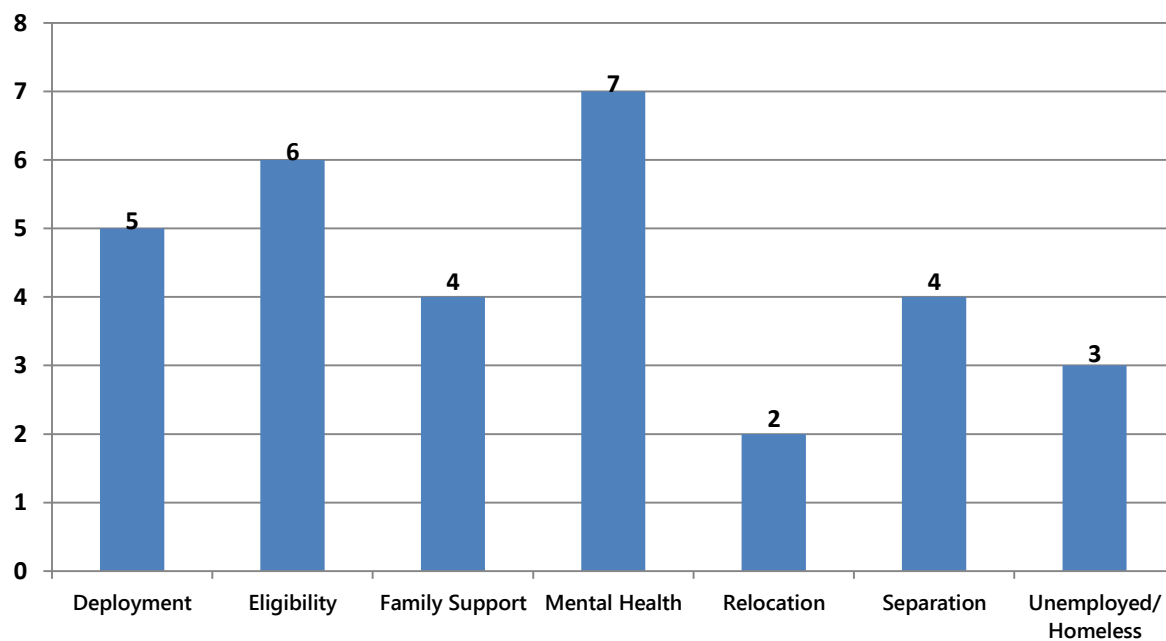
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## Emerging Themes?

# EHS and MSHS Programs Serving Active Duty Military Families

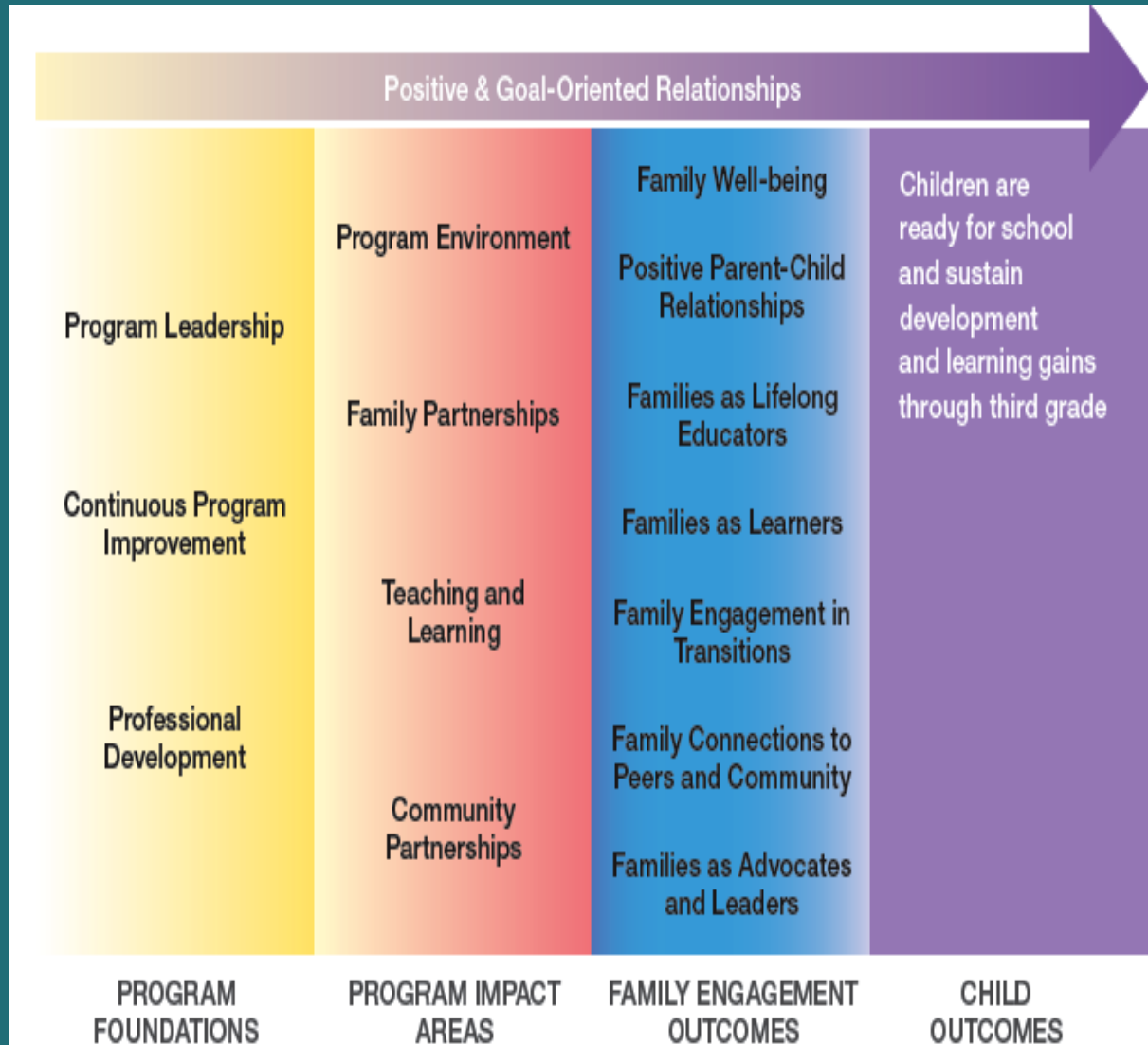
- What are the top 3 issues that you currently see in military and/or veteran families and their young children?*

Figure 4: Top Issues Facing Military and Veteran Families



# Engaging with Military and Veteran Families

*The OHS PFCE Framework is a research-based approach to program change that shows how Head Start/Early Head Start (HS/EHS) programs can work together as a whole – across systems and service areas – to promote family engagement and children’s learning and development.*



# Family Engagement is Everyone's Business: Integrating Family Engagement across Systems and Services in Head Start/Early Head Start to Achieve Positive Child and Family Outcomes.

When parent and family engagement activities are systemic and integrated across program foundations and program impact areas, family engagement outcomes are achieved, resulting in children who are healthy and ready for school. Parent and family engagement activities are grounded in positive, ongoing, and goal-oriented relationships with families.

# Principles for Working with Military and Veteran Families

- *Relational*
- *Culturally informed*
- *Strength-based*
- *Development*
- *Holistic*
- *Child is the entry point*
- *Unique implications*
- *Universality*
- *Pre-natal focus*
- *Connections*



Photo Courtesy of Kiwi Street Studios

# Head Start Multicultural Principles

REVISITING AND UPDATING THE

## Multicultural Principles

for Head Start Programs Serving Children Ages Birth to Five



*Addressing Culture and Home Language  
in Head Start Program Systems & Services*



EARLY HEAD START  
National Resource Center™

***“If you [Early Head Start] can create the family that military families are missing, we’ll attach to that program.”***

*-Veteran Family*

# Working Effectively with Military and Veteran Families



Q & A

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Photo Courtesy of Early Head Start National Resource Center





Photo Courtesy of Kiwi Street Studios



THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR TIME

*Questions?*

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