

Ready by 21 State Policy Survey: Child and Youth Policy Coordinating Bodies in the U.S.

This is the first comprehensive biennial survey of state child and youth policy coordinating bodies, which work across agency lines to coordinate services and foster the well-being of children and youth. The survey assesses coordinating bodies along criteria derived from the Ready by 21® Leadership Capacity Standards, which are organized into four “Building Blocks”: broader partnerships, bigger goals, better data and bolder strategies.



Prevalence: State

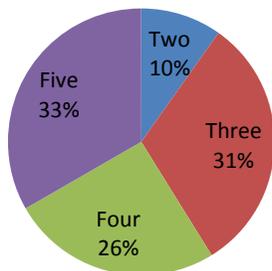
coordinating bodies are common 110 state coordinating bodies were identified and invited to take the survey; 55 coordinating bodies completed it. The respondents represent 29 states, plus the District of Columbia, American Samoa and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Early Childhood Councils were the most prevalent respondents: 23 completed the surveys. Governor's Children's Cabinets and Interagency Commissions, which typically address child and youth issues from birth to adulthood, collectively completed 20 surveys. P-16 and P-20 Councils completed seven surveys.

Partnerships: Most coordinating bodies include a range of members

While coordinating bodies generally include a large number of government agencies as official members (87% include at least six; 37% include more than 10), more research is needed to determine the degree to which they are all fully engaged in the collaborative effort. Engagement of non-governmental partners is uneven, with less than half including parents or community-based organizations as official members, and only 11% including youth as official members.

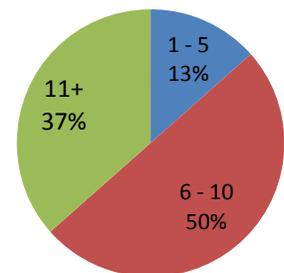
Number of Developmental Areas Addressed



Goals: Most coordinating bodies address children and youth holistically

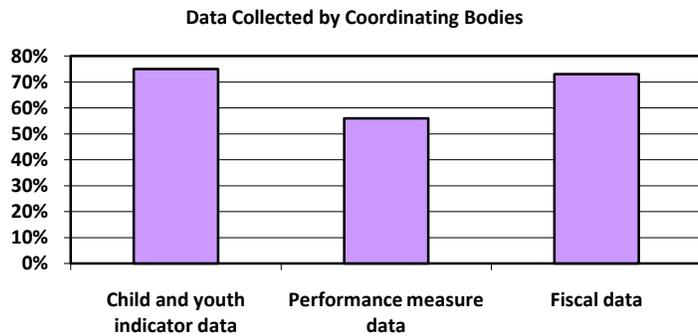
More than half of coordinating bodies address at least four of the following areas of child and youth development: academic, social/emotional, physical, vocational and civic. And more than half address at least four of the following age ranges: 0-5, 5-10, 11-15, 16-20 and 21+.

Number of Government Agencies on Coordinating Body



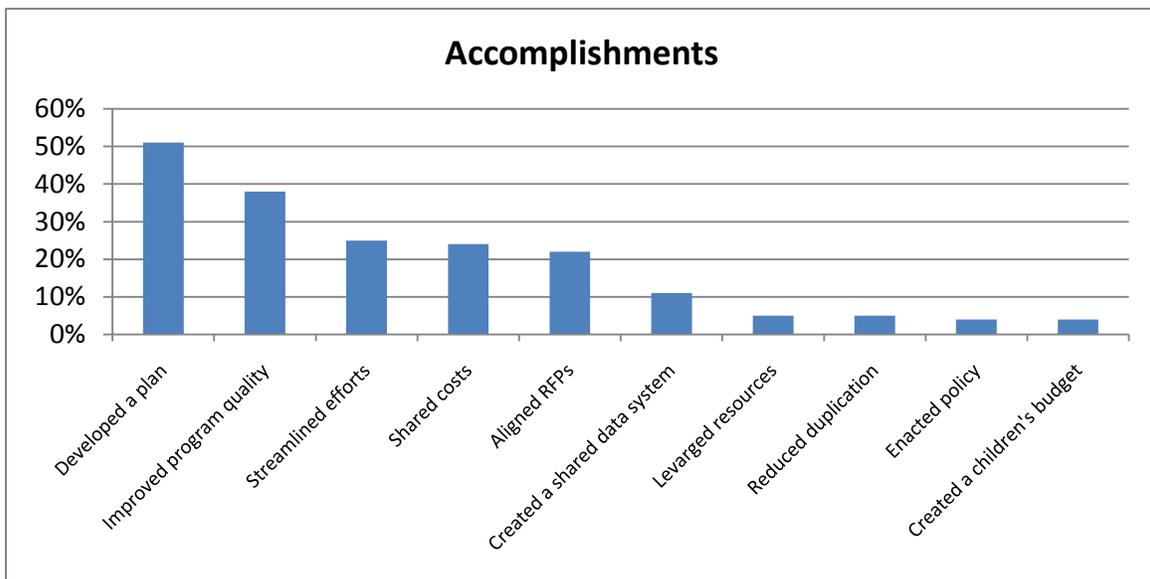
Data: Coordinating bodies collect significant amounts of interagency data

Close to 75% collect child and youth indicators (sometimes publishing a statewide “children’s report card”) and fiscal data (sometimes publishing a statewide “children’s budget”). More than 50% collect performance measure data. Twenty-six coordinating bodies reported collecting all three types of data. More research is needed to better understand the extent to which this data is used to drive decision making.



Strategies: Coordinating bodies report success in interagency planning and program improvement, but less success in leveraging resources, reducing duplication and enacting policy

More than half reported success in developing strategic plans, and more than a third reported success in improving program quality. Yet less than 10% reported success in important areas such as leveraging resources, reducing duplication and enacting policy.



About Us

The Ready by 21 State Policy Survey was created by the Forum for Youth Investment in partnership with the RAND Corporation. The Forum for Youth Investment is a nonprofit, nonpartisan action tank dedicated to helping communities make sure all young people are ready for college, work and life. The Forum has worked with innovative policymakers for the past decade, including Governor's Children's Cabinets and other coordinating bodies. The RAND Corporation is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that helps improve policy and decision-making through research and analysis. Over the last four decades, RAND has developed a broad research agenda to address child well-being, across divisions in health, education, safety and justice, and labor and population.