



**CONNECTICUT BIRTH TO THREE SYSTEM**  
**IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES**



2003



# Imagine the Possibilities! *2003*

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# Introduction

Imagine the possibilities.

*The Connecticut Birth to Three System works to support families whose babies or toddlers need help with their development. This report shows how we work to reach goals for children and families.*

Together we help make possibilities realities.

*Alaysia and her family share their Birth to Three experiences in the photos throughout this book. Alaysia was diagnosed with cerebral palsy at one year of age. At the time she enjoyed standing but had stiff legs and kept her hands fisted. Alaysia has always been a happy child with a beautiful smile. Her large extended family of grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins are very attentive and provide lots of fun activities.*

*Alaysia and her family have participated in the Birth to Three System since she was a year old.*

*Her team includes her parents, a physical therapist, an occupational therapist, a speech and language pathologist, and a special education teacher. To reach the dreams her family has for her, Alaysia uses adaptive equipment for standing, communicating and using her hands. Alaysia's parents help determine who gets involved and to what extent. Alaysia will transition on her third birthday to a preschool special education program with appropriate supports. Her family wants Alaysia to enjoy lots of opportunities, and looks forward to exploring all of life's possibilities.*

Just imagine . . .!



# Our Mission

THE MISSION OF THE CONNECTICUT BIRTH TO THREE SYSTEM IS TO STRENGTHEN THE CAPACITY OF CONNECTICUT'S FAMILIES TO MEET THE DEVELOPMENTAL AND HEALTH-RELATED NEEDS OF THEIR INFANTS AND TODDLERS WHO HAVE DELAYS OR DISABILITIES. THE SYSTEM WILL ENSURE THAT ALL FAMILIES HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO A COORDINATED PROGRAM OF COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES AND SUPPORTS THAT:

- FOSTER COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS
- ARE FAMILY CENTERED
- OCCUR IN NATURAL SETTINGS
- RECOGNIZE CURRENT BEST PRACTICES IN EARLY INTERVENTION
- ARE BUILT UPON MUTUAL RESPECT AND CHOICE



# Here is How We Fulfill Our Mission

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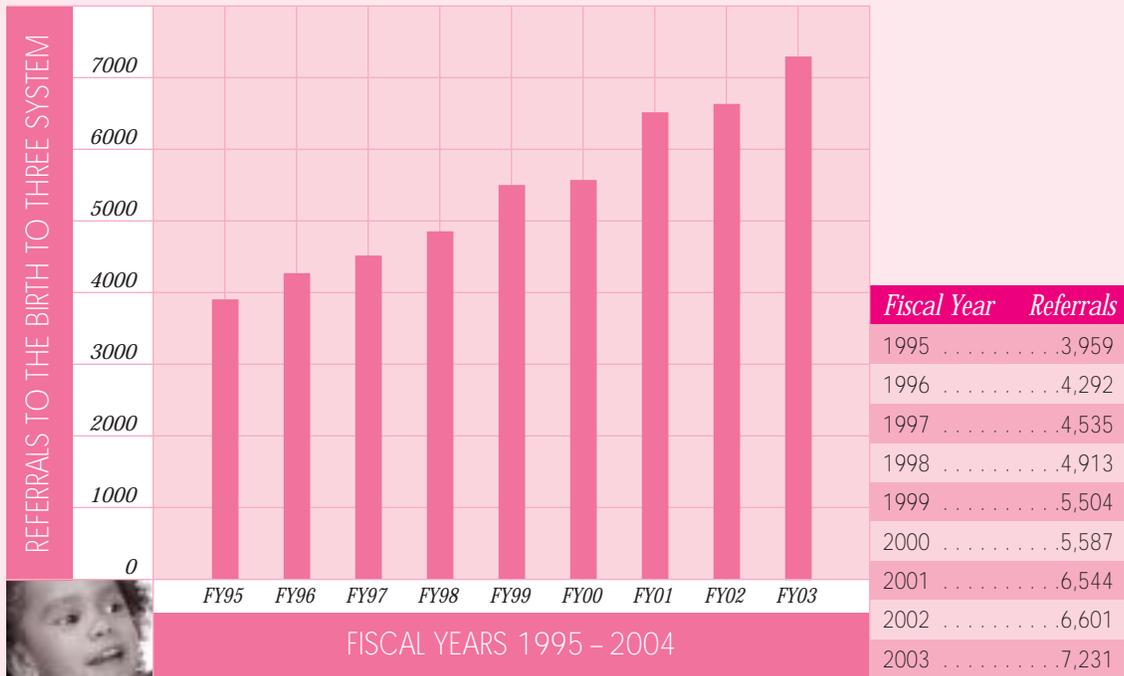
- **WE RECEIVE REFERRALS** by phone, fax, and e-mail to connect families with our supports through the **Child Development Infoline** (1-800-505-7000 or [www.birth23.org](http://www.birth23.org)).
- **THE PROGRAM THAT RECEIVES THE REFERRAL** meets with the child and family to evaluate the child's developmental strengths and needs. Results are shared with the family in their native language and in writing.
- **WHEN A CHILD IS NOT ELIGIBLE**, the family is offered a tool to monitor changes in their child's development. Information about other community resources is shared with the family.
- **WHEN A CHILD IS ELIGIBLE**, the family works with their service coordinator and their Birth to Three Team to develop a plan of services and supports to help reach their goals. The child's doctor is an important team member.
- **FAMILY MEMBERS LEARN NEW WAYS** to teach their child during regular activities throughout the day. Services and supports change as the family members' goals for themselves and their child change.
- **CHILDREN LEAVE THE BIRTH TO THREE SYSTEM EVERY DAY**, moving into school district special education programs or other community programs when they reach the age of three or when they no longer need early intervention services.



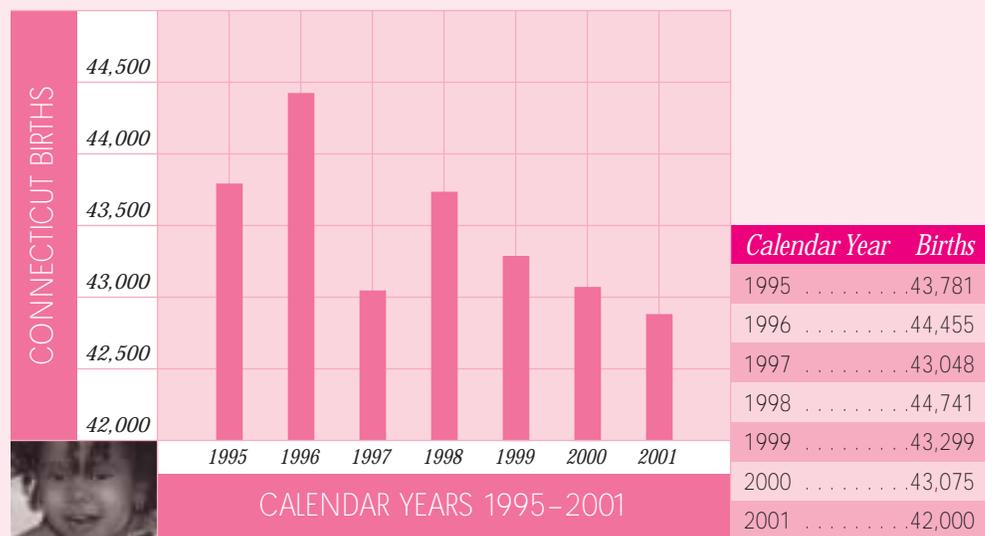
# Making the Connections: Referrals

## How many children are referred each year?

A total of 7,231 children were referred to the Birth to Three System in Fiscal Year 2003 (July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2003), an increase of almost 10% over the previous year.



New referrals have increased each year for the past seven fiscal years while births have declined since 1998. The FY2003 increase of almost 10% was far greater than the modest 1% increase of the previous year.



Data courtesy of the Connecticut Department of Public Health

## Where were they from?

New referrals were received from all 169 cities and towns across Connecticut. One third of those new referrals were from:

City	Referrals
Hartford	421
Bridgeport	306
New Haven	288
Stamford	273
Waterbury	264
Danbury	169
Norwalk	168
Fairfield	164
New Britain	163
West Hartford	131

*See the final pages of this book for a complete town-by-town chart of numbers of children referred and served.*



## Who connected Families with Birth to Three?

Most families referred themselves (69%) or were referred by a health care provider (25%).

Referral Sources	Percentage
Families, Foster Families, Relatives or Friends	.69%
Health Care Providers and Hospitals	.25%
State Agencies	.3%
Child Care Agencies	.1%
Social Service Agencies	.1%
All Others	.1%

## How did Families or other referral sources find out about Birth to Three?

Referral Sources	Percentage
From Their Primary Health Care Provider	.70%
From a Relative, Friend, or Co-Worker	.8%
From Another Health Care Provider	.6%
From Their Child Care Provider	.4%
As a Result of the Ages & Stages Questionnaire or Calling 2-1-1	.4%
Social Service Organization or State Agency	.3%
From Their School District	.2%
From an Early Intervention Provider	.2%
All Others	.1%



## *Who were the Infants and Toddlers referred?*

<i>Age at Referral</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Birth – 11 Months . . . . .	22%
12 – 23 Months . . . . .	33%
24 – 36 Months . . . . .	45%
<i>Average Age At Referral: 19.9 Months</i>	

<i>Boys &amp; Girls</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Boys . . . . .	66%
Girls . . . . .	34%

## *How did we compare with other states?*

### *Connecticut's rank order across the 50 United States for children served:*

Under age 12 months = 17th . . . . .	(1.09% of CT pop.)
Age 13 thru 24 months = 5th . . . . .	(2.90% of CT pop.)
Age 25 thru 36 months = 3rd . . . . .	(5.26% of CT pop.)
Age birth to 36 months = 5th . . . . .	(3.08% of CT pop.)

*Source: December 1, 2002 data reports to U.S. Dept. of Education*

Endless possibilities

## What are the reasons that Children were referred?

Many developmental concerns prompted referrals to the Birth to Three System. For the 7,231 children referred in FY2003, the concerns expressed were:

Communication	70
Motor (fine & gross)	27
Adaptive	11
Health	6
Social/emotional	5
Hearing	1
Vision	1
Cognitive	<1

*(Total percentages exceed 100 because there can be more than one concern for any one child.)*



## Why were Children eligible for the Birth to Three System?

Of the 4,817 Connecticut children who were found eligible for Birth to Three services in FY2003:

### 88% of Children had developmental delays

- 66% tested 2 standard deviations below average in at least one area of development
- 19% tested 1.5 standard deviations below average in two or more areas of development
- 2% could not be tested, but had a significant developmental delay according to informed clinical opinion

### 12% of Children had diagnosed conditions likely to result in developmental delay such as:

- Extremely low birth weight . . . . .119
- Down syndrome . . . . .68
- Hearing loss . . . . .31\*
- Brain deformities and anomalies . . . . . 22
- Cleft Palate . . . . .21

\* Thirty-five infants younger than three months were referred as a direct result of universal newborn hearing screening.

## *What does the System offer for children who are not eligible for Birth to Three services?*

Parents of children who were found not eligible for Birth to Three services or whose eligible children left Birth to Three before age three we invited to enroll their children in the **Ages and Stages Questionnaire Developmental Monitoring Program**. Families completed a series of developmental questionnaires about their child and returned them to **Child Development Infoline**. When scores showed that the child's development was increasingly delayed, the family was offered another evaluation. When the child's development appeared to be on track, the family was sent a developmental status report with suggested activities to continue to help their child learn new skills.

This past fiscal year, 669 new families whose children were evaluated chose to enroll their children in the **Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ)** monitoring process, an 8% increase over the previous year. An additional 235 families who called **Child Development Infoline** enrolled directly in **ASQ**, which was a new initiative during FY2003. By June 30, 2003 **Child Development Infoline** was actively following 1,383 children, approximately the same number as the previous fiscal year.



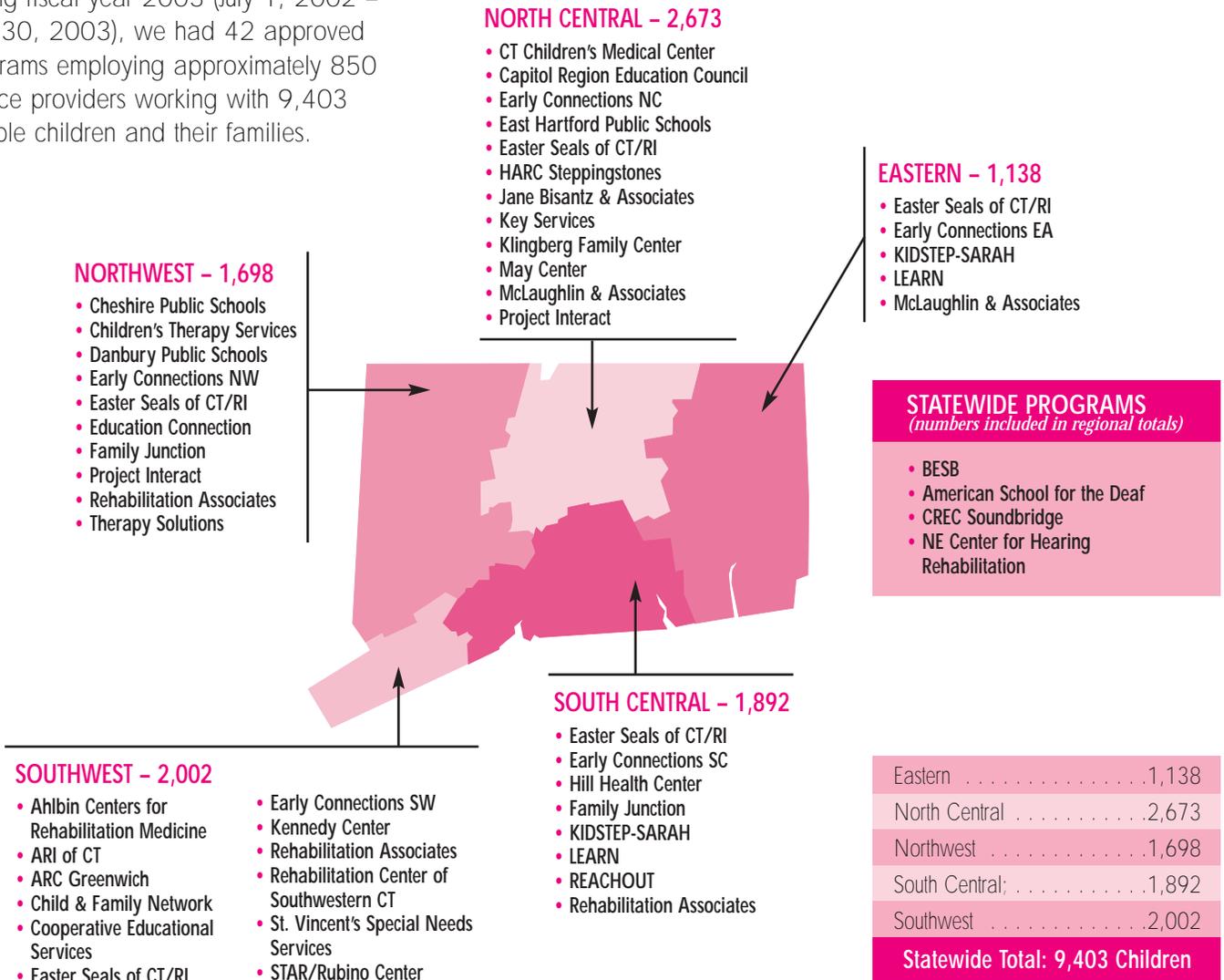
*The Birth to Three System coordinates outreach efforts with other State and federal agencies in many ways. For example, we partner with the Social Security Administration by reviewing infant and toddler applications for SSI against our eligibility for early intervention. In FY2003, 683 applications were reviewed, and 56% of the children matched Birth to Three eligibility. Eighty-three percent of those children had already been referred to Birth to Three. Families of the remaining children received a letter inviting them to seek early intervention.*



# How We Make a Difference: Service Delivery

## How Many Children Received Services Over the Course of the Year?

During fiscal year 2003 (July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2003), we had 42 approved programs employing approximately 850 service providers working with 9,403 eligible children and their families.



## Who supported enrolled Children and their Families?

<i>Service Delivered By</i>	<i>Number of Children</i>	<i>% of Children</i>
Speech and Language Pathologist . . . . .	5,217 . . . . .	.55%
Special Educator . . . . .	3,881 . . . . .	.41%
Physical Therapist . . . . .	2,953 . . . . .	.31%
Occupational Therapist . . . . .	2,602 . . . . .	.28%
Early Intervention Associate or Assistant . . . . .	1,582 . . . . .	.17%
Social Worker . . . . .	488 . . . . .	.5%
Audiologist . . . . .	428 . . . . .	.5%
Nutritionist . . . . .	253 . . . . .	.3%
Psychologist . . . . .	48 . . . . .	<.1%
Physical Therapy Assistant . . . . .	42 . . . . .	<.1%
Board Certified Behavior Analyst or Associate Analyst . . . . .	27 . . . . .	<.1%
Family Therapist / Professional Counselor . . . . .	26 . . . . .	<.1%
Orientation and Mobility Specialist . . . . .	22 . . . . .	<.1%
Physician . . . . .	12 . . . . .	<.1%
Vision Specialist . . . . .	11 . . . . .	<.1%

## Where were services delivered?

<i>Referral Sources</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Home (includes foster homes) . . . . .	.96%
Program Designed for Typically Developing Children . . . . .	.3%
Program Designed for Children with Developmental Delays or Disabilities . . . . .	<.1%
Service Provider Office . . . . .	<.1%
Hospital (inpatient) . . . . .	<.1%
Residential Facility . . . . .	<.1%
Other . . . . .	<.1%

## How much service did Children and Families receive?

The statewide average number of service hours per month as listed on children's Individualized Family Service Plans was 4.66 for most children. Another 644 children received more than 15 hours per month. Approximately 170 of these children had an autism spectrum disorder.

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## *How do we assure quality?*

- **BIRTH TO THREE PROCEDURES MANUAL:** Specifies standard procedures for all aspects of approved program operations in order to assure consistency, effectiveness, and compliance with laws and regulations and is updated annually.
- **SERVICE GUIDELINES:** Contains recommended best practices and position statements on specific topics based on reviews of research and current practices in the field along with additional resource listings. Current guidelines cover the topics of autism spectrum disorder, natural environments, communication disorders, infant mental health, deafness, nutrition, and assistive technology.
- **TRAINING:** An annual calendar of training events that is offered to assure that personnel are knowledgeable and updated on a wide range of topics related to family support, transdisciplinary early intervention, and effective service coordination.
- **MONITORING OF PROGRAMS:** All approved programs complete a self-assessment followed by a review of early intervention records, interviews with families, interviews with staff and administrators, and review of financial records and billing practices. Areas needing improvement are addressed in a continuous improvement plan approved and monitored by the regional manager.
- **CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT PLAN:** Consists of data-based strategies developed to ensure that the Connecticut Birth to Three System and State Department of Education special education services effectively address areas in need of improvement and continue to use strategies that maintain areas of strength in service delivery. It is approved by the federal Department of Education and progress updates are reported annually.



# When It's Time to Say Goodbye

## *When and why do Children leave the Birth to Three System?*

Most families continue with Birth to Three until their children turn three years old or no longer need our services and supports. Families are connected with community resources as the transition process unfolds.

### **The 4,486 Children who exited the System in FY2003 left because:**

- Child Turned Three Years Old . . . . . 2,896
- No Further Services Needed by Child . . . . . 653
- Parent Withdrew Child . . . . . 492
- Moved Out of State . . . . . 181
- Unable to Locate . . . . . 251

### **Of the 2,896 Children who left at age three:**

- Eligible for Special Education . . . . . 1,969 . . . . . 68%
- Not Eligible for Special Education  
But Referred to Another Program . . . . . 300 . . . . . 10%
- Not Eligible for Special Education  
And Not Referred to Another Program . . . . . 251 . . . . . 7%
- Referred to Public School But Special  
Education Eligibility Not Determined . . . . . 210 . . . . . 7%
- Not Referred to Public School . . . . . 114 . . . . . 5%



# Costs of Early Intervention

## *Our Budget and Expenses*

The Birth to Three budget for FY2003 was \$37,406,556 from state and federal sources, with total System expenditures from all sources of \$39,792,202. Only 5% of that total amount was spent on administration of the System, leaving 95% for direct services.

### Birth to Three Services – Cost Per Child

Average statewide gross annual cost per Child . . . . .	\$8,617
After commercial insurance reimbursement the net average cost per Child . . . . .	\$8,123

### *Actual Expenditures*

Total State Funds . . . . .	\$30,395,807*
Total Federal Funds . . . . .	5,431,894
Commercial Insurance Funds . . . . .	3,964,501
<b>Total System Expenditures . . . . .</b>	<b>\$39,792,202</b>

*\*Medicaid claims resulted in \$3.3 million in revenue to the State General Fund, decreasing the net State contribution to Birth to Three by that amount.*





*State Fiscal Year 2003  
(July 1, 2002 – June 30, 2003) Expenditures  
Part C of IDEA Federal Funding Only*

<i>Expenditure</i>	
Salaries and fringe for 16 FTE Positions (Birth to Three central office and regional staff)	\$1,428,498
Other expenses (printing, postage, supplies, travel, equipment)	186,505
State ICC	7,755
Local ICCs	27,508
Public Awareness	52,228
Data System	109,730
Personnel Development	191,224
Supervision and Monitoring	600
Procedural Safeguards	4,178
<b>TOTAL SYSTEM COMPONENTS</b>	<b>\$2,008,226</b>
<b>TOTAL DIRECT SERVICES</b>	<b>\$2,002,322</b>
<b>TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDED EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$4,010,548</b>



Together we help make possibilities realities.



## Birth to Three System – Fiscal Years 2000 to 2003

### Number of Children Served each Month and Monthly Direct Service Cost



# We Can't Do It Alone: Our Collaborators

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*Many people and agencies work with the Birth to Three System in supporting eligible families and strengthening the System. Here are some of our closest allies:*

State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)  
Local Interagency Coordinating Councils (LICCs)  
Birth to Three Family Leaders  
Birth to Three Medical Advisory Committee  
Birth to Three Public Awareness Committee  
Early Childhood Cultural Competence Committee  
CSPD Council

## *Other Connecticut State Agencies*

Department of Children and Families  
Department of Education  
Department of Social Services  
Department of Public Health  
Department of Insurance  
Office of Protection and Advocacy  
Commission on the Deaf and Hearing Impaired  
Board of Education and Services for the Blind  
University of Connecticut – A.J. Papanikou Center for Excellence  
Children's Trust Fund  
Commission on Children



*With Particular Thanks* to the Connecticut Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and the many Birth to Three families who dedicated their time and talent to ensure that Birth to Three continued to be available for **all** eligible children and their families.

# Numbers of Children by Town

Here are the numbers of children in each town who were referred to Birth to Three for the first time in FY2003, and the number of eligible children in each town who received early intervention supports:

<i>Town</i>	<i>Children Referred</i>	<i>Children Served</i>
Andover	8	16
Ansonia	37	47
Ashford	13	17
Avon	33	43
Barkhamsted	<	10
Beacon Falls	6	12
Berlin	24	36
Bethany	6	6
Bethel	40	61
Bethlehem	<	7
Bloomfield	30	35
Bolton	13	18
Bozrah	8	9
Branford	45	59
Bridgeport	306	409
Bridgewater	<	6
Bristol	123	159
Brookfield	38	47
Brooklyn	<	12
Burlington	17	24
Canaan	<	<
Canterbury	13	14
Canton	21	27
Chaplin	<	9
Cheshire	51	57
Chester	10	8
Clinton	18	31
Colchester	43	69
Colebrook	<	<

<i>Town</i>	<i>Children Referred</i>	<i>Children Served</i>
Columbia	8	13
Cornwall	<	<
Coventry	19	30
Cromwell	10	13
Danbury	169	218
Darien	76	89
Deep River	10	11
Derby	30	33
Durham	9	9
East Granby	10	12
East Haddam	16	19
East Hampton	23	31
East Hartford	110	152
East Haven	33	55
East Lyme	21	30
East Windsor	15	23
Eastford	<	<
Easton	33	31
Ellington	19	32
Enfield	98	106
Essex	10	11
Fairfield	164	183
Farmington	44	57
Franklin	<	<
Glastonbury	72	88
Goshen	<	<
Granby	22	27
Greenwich	113	179
Griswold	16	23

The numbers for towns with 5 or fewer have been redacted to protect privacy.

## Numbers of Children by Town *continued*

<i>Town</i>	<i>Children Referred</i>	<i>Children Served</i>
Groton	108	145
Guilford	35	58
Haddam	6	9
Hamden	100	141
Hampton	<	8
Hartford	421	506
Hartland	<	<
Harwinton	14	15
Hebron	27	29
Kent	<	9
Killingly	42	61
Killingworth	13	17
Lebanon	11	13
Ledyard	23	40
Lisbon	13	18
Litchfield	8	20
Lyme	<	<
Madison	32	44
Manchester	108	154
Mansfield	24	28
Marlborough	17	20
Meriden	112	162
Middlebury	13	10
Middlefield	11	6
Middletown	71	96
Milford	99	112
Monroe	45	67
Montville	40	54
Morris	<	█

<i>Town</i>	<i>Children Referred</i>	<i>Children Served</i>
Naugatuck	69	83
New Britain	163	214
New Canaan	42	50
New Fairfield	62	73
New Hartford	9	18
New Haven	288	365
New London	61	69
New Milford	76	92
Newington	37	44
Newtown	72	87
Norfolk	<	█
North Branford	24	30
North Canaan	<	█
North Haven	28	43
North Stonington	6	11
Norwalk	168	198
Norwich	82	112
Old Lyme	11	14
Old Saybrook	15	21
Orange	22	33
Oxford	15	28
Plainfield	31	51
Plainville	33	45
Plymouth	32	30
Pomfret	11	10
Portland	22	24
Preston	<	12
Prospect	17	27
Putnam	20	34

Numbers of Children by Town *continued*

<i>Town</i>	<i>Children Referred</i>	<i>Children Served</i>
Redding	20	25
Ridgefield	74	81
Rocky Hill	25	37
Roxbury	<	<
Salem	12	16
Salisbury	<	<
Scotland	<	7
Seymour	36	44
Sharon	<	<
Shelton	74	95
Sherman	15	19
Simsbury	51	71
Somers	14	20
South Windsor	54	69
Southbury	36	51
Southington	83	99
Sprague	7	7
Stafford	16	25
Stamford	273	370
Sterling	6	11
Stonington	21	24
Stratford	102	134
Suffield	29	25
Thomaston	14	23
Thompson	23	28
Tolland	21	28
Torrington	61	80
Trumbull	82	103
Union	<	<

<i>Town</i>	<i>Children Referred</i>	<i>Children Served</i>
Vernon	41	65
Voluntown	<	<
Wallingford	88	102
Warren	<	<
Washington	<	11
Waterbury	264	351
Waterford	23	38
Watertown	40	59
West Hartford	131	176
West Haven	87	117
Westbrook	12	12
Weston	26	35
Westport	81	77
Wethersfield	47	62
Willington	8	14
Wilton	68	77
Winchester	29	30
Windham	51	82
Windsor	55	64
Windsor Locks	25	35
Wolcott	26	27
Woodbridge	12	12
Woodbury	23	21
Woodstock	10	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7,321</b>	<b>9,403</b>

Can you imagine that!

# Ways We Stay Connected



**THE BIRTH TO THREE SYSTEM WEBSITE** ([www.birth23.org](http://www.birth23.org)): contains current information on Birth to Three programs, federally-funded grant projects, Local ICCs and the State ICC, training opportunities, library materials about children with disabilities, laws and regulations, procedures, and links to many other state and national resources. Information is posted in both English and Spanish.

**THE BIRTH THROUGH FIVE NEWS:** a newsletter that is jointly produced by the Birth to Three System and the State Department of Education and is sent to all families of children enrolled in Birth to Three, directors of community agencies, preschool special education programs and Birth to Three staff covering a variety of topics such as:

- Fall 2002      *Siblings: Precious Members of the Family*
- Winter 2002    *Infusing Cultural Competence in Early Childhood Programming*
- Spring 2003    *Parent Training Supports Children's Learning*
- Summer 2003   *Summer Fun Can Foster Development*

To make the information accessible to more families, the lead article is also printed in Spanish. The Birth to Three website contains the newsletters fully translated into Spanish and in English.

**THE BIRTH TO THREE FAMILY LEADERS LISTSERV** keeps enrolled and transitioned families connected via the internet for information sharing and friendly mutual support.



*The Connecticut Birth to Three System is administered by the  
Connecticut Department of Mental Retardation*

Peter H. O'Meara, *Commissioner*  
Kathryn duPree, *Deputy Commissioner*

**BIRTH TO THREE SYSTEM  
CENTRAL OFFICE**

Linda Goodman  
*Director*

Sandy Booth  
*Systems Developer  
Information Systems*

Kathy Granata  
*Administrative Assistant*

Eileen McMurrer  
*Coordinator for Public  
Awareness and ICC Activities*

Deb Resnick  
*Coordinator for CSPD*

Pietro Rosato  
*Accountant*

**BIRTH TO THREE SYSTEM  
REGIONAL OFFICES**

**NORTHWEST REGION**  
Alice Ridgway, *Manager*  
Marsha Laire, *Fiscal Assistant*

**NORTH CENTRAL REGION**  
Tammy Garris, *Manager*  
Lana Raymond, *Secretary*  
Kathy Kiely, *Fiscal Coordinator*

**EASTERN REGION**  
Kathy Reddington, *Manager*  
Olga Valentine, *Secretary*  
Madeline Malish, *Fiscal Coordinator*

**SOUTHWEST REGION**  
Tom Coakley, *Manager*  
Tina Cox, *Secretary*  
Ray Horvath, *Fiscal Coordinator*

**SOUTH CENTRAL REGION**  
Lynn Skene Johnson, *Manager*  
Stacy Eagan, *Secretary*  
Dick Cotter, *Fiscal Coordinator*



**Central Office**  
460 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

**Information & Referrals**  
1.800.505.7000  
Multilingual (Voice/TDD)  
[www.birth23.org](http://www.birth23.org)

**Central Directory**  
2-1-1 (Voice/TTY)

Funding provided under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, through the United States Department of Education.

To receive a copy of this 2003 Data Report, please contact:  
Connecticut Birth to Three System, 460 Capitol Avenue, Hartford, CT 06106  
860-418-6146 or email to [dmrct.birthtothree@po.state.ct.us](mailto:dmrct.birthtothree@po.state.ct.us)

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