

Indicators 9 and 10: Disproportionate Representation

Indicator 9 - Disproportionate Representation

SU Data: Vermont AOE uses a minimum cell size of 11 to avoid volatility in Weighted Risk Ratios and to ensure compliance with our state’s data privacy policy. Vermont AOE does not use a minimum n size.

For a district to be identified with disproportionate representation, Vermont AOE requires that there be at least 10 more students receiving special education services than would be expected. Expected counts are calculated in two steps. First, the LEA’s total student count in a race/ethnic group is divided by the LEA’s total student population to find the portion of students in that race/ethnic group. This result is then multiplied by the number of students with disabilities in the LEA.

Vermont AOE uses a Weighted Risk Ratio with a threshold of 3.0. If the comparison group cell size is less than 11, an Alternate Risk Ratio calculation is used, also with a threshold of 3.0.*

$$\text{State Actual Percentage} = \frac{\text{Number of districts that have disproportionate representation}}{\text{Number of districts in the state}} \times 100$$

Indicator 10 - Disproportionate Representation in Specific Disability Categories

Six disability categories as defined by OSEP: intellectual disability, specific learning disabilities, emotional disturbance, speech or language impairments, other health impairments, and autism.

SU Data: Vermont AOE uses a minimum cell size of 11 to avoid volatility in Weighted Risk Ratios and to ensure compliance with our state’s data privacy policy. Vermont AOE does not use a minimum n size.

For a district to be identified with disproportionate representation, Vermont AOE requires that there be at least 10 more students receiving services for any of the 6 disability categories than would be expected. Expected counts are calculated in two steps. First, the LEA’s total student count in a race/ethnic group is divided by the LEA’s total student population to find the portion of students in that race/ethnic group. This result is then multiplied by the number of students with the target disability in the LEA.

Vermont AOE uses a Weighted Risk Ratio with a threshold of 3.0. If the comparison group cell size is less than 11, an Alternate Risk Ratio calculation is used, also with a threshold of 3.0.*

$$\text{State Actual Percentage} = \frac{\text{Number of districts that have disproportionate representation in specific disability categories}}{\text{Number of districts in the state}} \times 100$$

Data Sources: Same data as used for reporting to the Department of Education under section 618 of the IDEA, using the definitions in ED Facts file specifications C002, C089, and C052.

* These calculations are described in the IDEA Data Center's Technical Assistance Guide entitled "Methods for Assessing Racial/Ethnic Disproportionality in Special Education" and found at [https://ideadata.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2017-09/idc ta guide for 508-010716.pdf](https://ideadata.org/sites/default/files/media/documents/2017-09/idc_ta_guide_for_508-010716.pdf)