

## MIECHV Demonstration of Improvement in Benchmark Areas National Threshold Values

The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program is authorized by Social Security Act, Title V, § 511 (42 U.S.C. § 711). Section 50601 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 ([Pub. L. 115-123](#)) (BBA) extended appropriated funding for the MIECHV Program through FY 2022. Section 50602 of the BBA, which amended section 511, requires eligible entities to continue to track and report information demonstrating that the program results in improvements for the eligible families participating in the program in at least four out of the six benchmark areas specified in statute that the service delivery model or models selected by the entity are intended to improve.<sup>1</sup> Such a demonstration is required following Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 and every three years thereafter.<sup>2</sup>

As documented in the [MIECHV Program Guidance on Meeting Requirements to Demonstrate Improvement in Benchmark Areas](#), improvement in a benchmark area is defined as meeting the identified measure-level improvement criteria in at least one-third (33.3%) of the measures under a specified benchmark area (rounded to the closest whole number), with a minimum of improvement in at least one measure for each benchmark area. For each of the 19 measures, improvement will be measured by comparing the awardee's FY 2020 measure-level performance data to both baseline data for that measure as well as the national threshold. Improvement for a measure is defined as meeting one or both of the following criteria:

- 1) Any change in the intended direction for that measure, as compared to baseline.<sup>3,4</sup>
- 2) Meeting or exceeding the established threshold for a measure, while simultaneously not decreasing performance from baseline by more than 10%.<sup>5</sup>

The below national threshold values for the FY 2020 Demonstration of Improvement (Table 1) were calculated by computing the national mean value of the two preceding years (FY 2018 and FY 2019) for each measure, as outlined below:

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<sup>1</sup> Social Security Act, Title V, § 511(d)(1)(D) (42 U.S.C. 711(d)(1)(D)(1)).

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> Intended direction for improvement in upward, with the exception of the following measures: Preterm Birth, Child Injury, and Child Maltreatment.

<sup>4</sup> Measure-level data will be rounded to the nearest tenth except for Measure 8: Child Injury, which is rounded to the nearest hundredth.

<sup>5</sup> A percent change calculation is used to assess decrease in performance from baseline (i.e., ((FY 2020 value-baseline value)/baseline value) x 100).

Step 1. The FY 2018 national mean was calculated:

$$\text{FY 2018 national mean} = \frac{\text{Sum of 56}^6 \text{ FY 2018 performance values}}{56}$$

Step 2. The FY 2019 national mean was calculated:

$$\text{FY 2019 national mean} = \frac{\text{Sum of 56}^7 \text{ FY 2019 performance values}}{56}$$

Step 3. The national threshold was calculated:

$$\text{National Threshold Value} = \frac{\text{FY 2018 national mean} + \text{FY 2019 national mean}}{2}$$

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<sup>6</sup> Fifty six awardees are used as an example for this calculation. However, HRSA reserves the ability to exclude awardees from the calculation if necessary. For FY 2018, the following exclusions were made due to undefined or unavailable data: Tobacco Cessation Referrals: 2 exclusions; Child Maltreatment: 2 exclusions; Completed Depression Referrals: 2 exclusions; Completed Developmental Referrals: 1 exclusion; IPV Referrals: 1 exclusion).

<sup>7</sup> Fifty six awardees are used as an example for this calculation. However, HRSA reserves the ability to exclude awardees from the calculation if necessary. For FY 2019, the following exclusions were made due to undefined or unavailable data: Tobacco Cessation Referrals: 1 exclusion; Completed Developmental Referrals: 1 exclusion; IPV Referrals: 1 exclusion).

**Table 1: National Threshold Values for the FY 2020 Demonstration of Improvement**

Benchmark Area	Performance Measure	National Threshold Value
1. Maternal and Newborn Health	Preterm Birth*	11.0%
1. Maternal and Newborn Health	Breastfeeding	42.7%
1. Maternal and Newborn Health	Depression Screening	80.7%
1. Maternal and Newborn Health	Well-Child Visit	66.6%
1. Maternal and Newborn Health	Postpartum Care	67.5%
1. Maternal and Newborn Health	Tobacco Cessation Referrals	53.7%
2. Child Injuries, Maltreatment, and Reduction of Emergency Department Visits	Safe Sleep	54.7%
2. Child Injuries, Maltreatment, and Reduction of Emergency Department Visits	Child Injury*	0.04
2. Child Injuries, Maltreatment, and Reduction of Emergency Department Visits	Child Maltreatment*	6.7%
3. School Readiness and Achievement	Parent-Child Interaction	67.4%
3. School Readiness and Achievement	Early Language and Literacy Activities	74.6%
3. School Readiness and Achievement	Developmental Screening	74.8%
3. School Readiness and Achievement	Behavioral Concerns	91.1%
4. Crime or Domestic Violence	Intimate Partner Violence Screening	80.8%
5. Family Economic Self-Sufficiency	Primary Caregiver Education	29.9%
5. Family Economic Self-Sufficiency	Continuity of Health Insurance	79.0%
6. Coordination and Referrals	Completed Depression Referrals	41.4%
6. Coordination and Referrals	Completed Developmental Referrals	56.8%
6. Coordination and Referrals	Intimate Partner Violence Referrals	55.9%

\*Indicates measures where intended direction for improvement is downward.