

CHILDREN & YOUTH WITH SPECIAL HEALTH CARE NEEDS (CYSHCN) PROGRAM

The Erie County Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CYSHCN, pronounced "shin") Program seeks to improve the coordination of care for children and youth who have special health care needs. This program serves families with infants, children, and youth from birth to 21 years old who have serious or chronic medical, physical, behavioral, emotional, or developmental conditions. A diagnosis is not required for enrollment in the Erie County CYSHCN Program.

The CYSHCN Program matches families with community resources and provides referrals to community programs. The CYSHCN Program can also help by providing advocacy with health care providers and school districts, linkage with medical providers and specialists, and assistance with health insurance. The CYSHCN Program can assist with linkage to special education services/support, support groups, play groups, educational resources (GED, college preparation/exploration and tutoring), and job and vocational

counseling. The CYSHCN Program can also assist with transportation services, translation and interpretation services, transition to adult services, and more.

There are 53 CYSHCN programs throughout New York State. Because of its unique location within the ECOHE, Erie County's CYSHCN Program is setting the standard for navigating special health care needs through an equity lens, including addressing the social determinants of health and structural barriers including racism and other forms of discrimination that affect CYSHCN and their families. The figures on the next page show 2023 enrollment and demographic data for the Erie County CYSHCN Program compared to New York State CYSHCN data from 2019 [7].



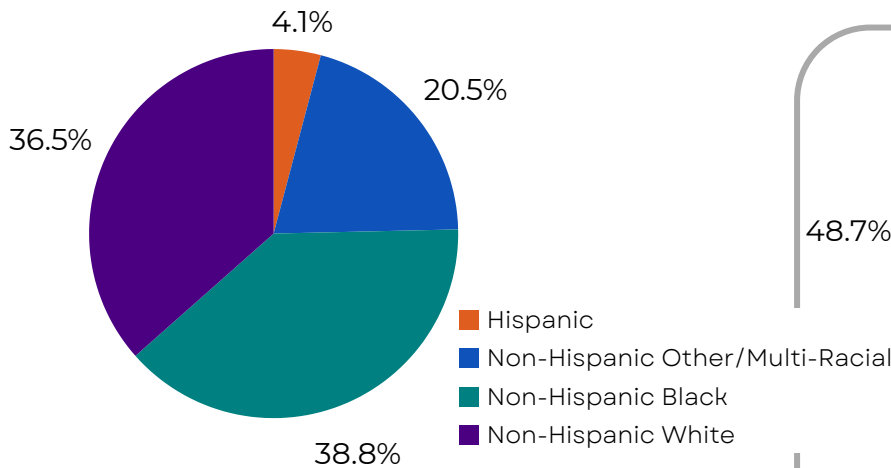
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON CYSHCN
 Email healthequity@erie.gov
 Call (716) 858-1920
 Visit erie.gov/cyshcn

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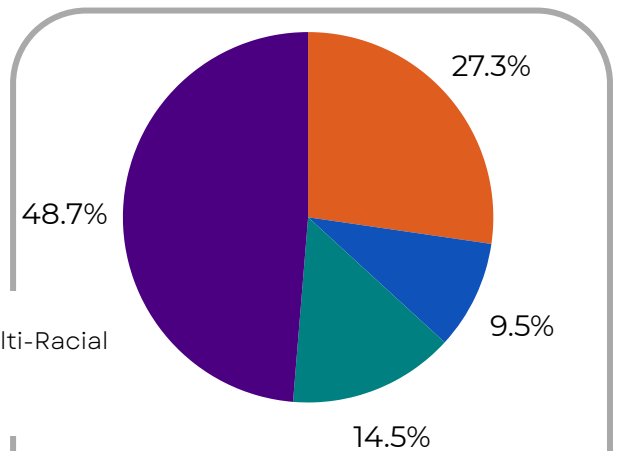
Participants in Erie County CYSHCN Compared to NYS CYSHCN

	Erie County CYSHCN April-November 2023	NYS CYSHCN 2019-2020
Gender		
Male	66.7%	62.5%
Female	33.3%	37.5%
Households With English as the Primary Language	93%	87.1%
Households With Income Between 0%-199% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)	No Data	39.0%

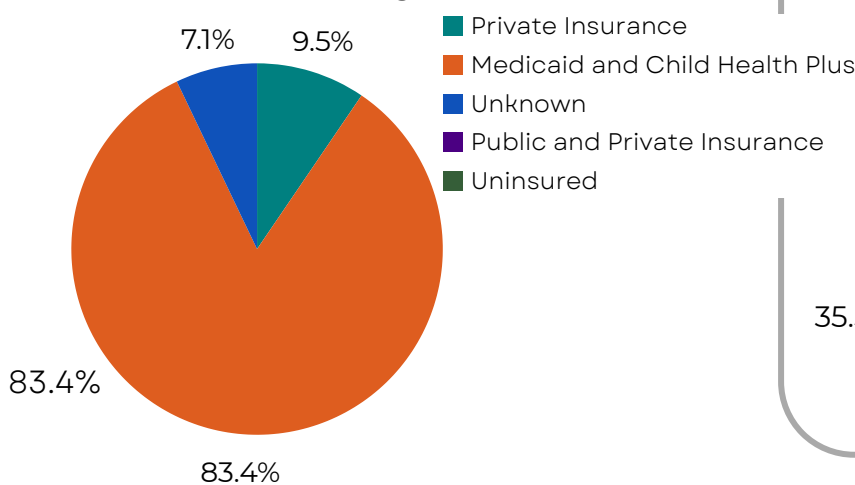
**Erie County CYSHCN
By Race and Ethnicity**



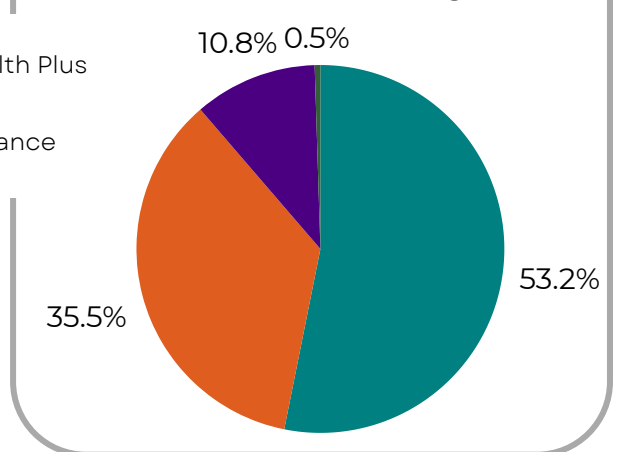
**NYS CYSHCN
By Race and Ethnicity**



**Erie County CYSHCN
By Insurance Coverage**



**NYS CYSHCN
By Insurance Coverage**



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A priority for Erie County CYSHCN Program in 2023 was to cultivate a robust network of community organizations and community partners to ensure that families with CYSHCN are both able to be referred to the CYSHCN Program for assistance and also to be linked to appropriate resources and services that meet their needs. Since July 2023, the Erie County CYSHCN program has provided over 200 referrals and resources to families with CYSHCN, including mental health resources, day care assistance, food access, housing, domestic violence resources, evaluation and diagnosis assistance, medical care transition information, mentoring, IEP (Individualized education plan) process and assistance, behavior supports, Medicaid, medical devices, pediatrician navigation, lead prevention resources, legal resources, transportation, autism resources, support groups, and fact sheets.

“No one else understands my frustrations with finding support for my child.”

-CYSHCN Caregiver

“Thank you so much, you are a God send.”

-CYSHCN Caregiver

Feedback from both families and the community has been positive. One caregiver stated, “Thank you so much, you are a God send.” Another caregiver who was living in a shelter with her children reported that CYSHCN support had led to her getting a new job. Another caregiver stated that “no one else understands” her frustrations with finding support for her child who has autism, but that she felt “so comfortable” talking to Erie County CYSHSCN staff.

Next steps for the Erie County CYSHCN Program include continuing to build connections with community organizations and community partners, including local school systems, childcare providers, and medical providers to identify unmet needs and challenges and to better assist CYSHCN and their families. Additionally, the CYSHCN Program will focus on quality improvement, including streamlining service delivery; fine-tuning outreach and engagement to identify and reach families who may be eligible for services but are not currently aware of or enrolled in the CYSHCN Program; ensuring that CYSCHN services are trauma-informed, culturally specific, gender-responsive, timely, and tailored to the community’s needs; using data to improve the design and delivery of all CYSHCN services; and actively engaging caregivers in planning activities, workgroups, and committees to improve the system of care for CYSHCN. The Erie County CYSHCN Program strives to advance health equity by reducing structural barriers, including racism and other forms of discrimination, that impact the health and well-being of children and youth with special health care needs and their families and will continue to advocate for an equity-centered approach to services and care.