

**B. COLLECTION OF INFORMATION EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS**

For Table 1 (Child Count), States may use sampling to obtain data for discrete ages and race/ethnicity; however, the counts reported for the birth-through-2 age grouping must be an actual count. All counts of children ages 3 or older must be actual counts. If a State plans to use sampling, it must submit its sampling plan to OSEP by September 1 of the collection year (the September prior to the child count). The State's sampling plan must be approved by OSEP prior to data collection.

States may also use sampling to obtain most of the data reported in Tables 2 (Settings) and 3 (Exiting). As with Table 1, the data in Table 2 for children, ages 3 or older, must be actual counts. A State planning to use sampling for the data in Tables 2 and 3 must submit its sampling plan to OSEP by September 1 of the collection year (the September prior to the child count). The State's sampling plan must be approved by OSEP prior to data collection.