

# The State of South Dakota's Babies

Where children are born can affect their chances for a strong start in life. Babies need good health, strong families, and positive early learning experiences to foster their healthy brain development and help them realize their full potential.

This state profile provides a snapshot of how infants, toddlers, and their families are faring in each of these three policy domains. Within each domain, view data for selected child, family, and policy indicators compared to national averages. The profile begins with a demographic description of the state's babies and families to offer the broadest context for exploring what may be very different experiences of the state's youngest children.

## Demographics

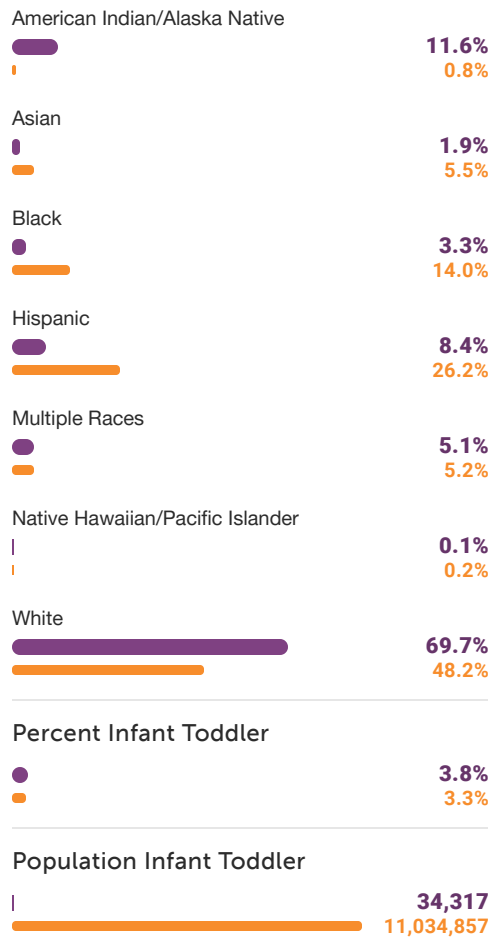
 South Dakota  National Average

### Infants and toddlers in South Dakota

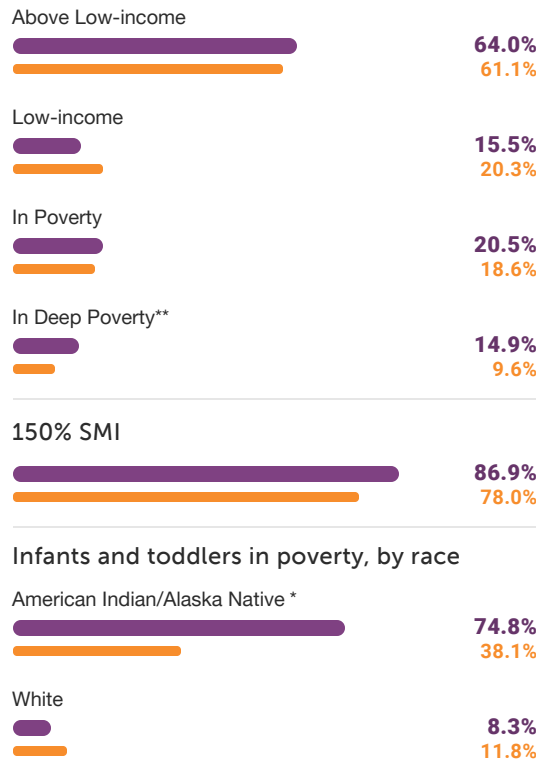
South Dakota is home to 34,317 babies, representing 3.8 percent of the state's population. As many as 36 percent live in households with incomes less than twice the federal poverty line (in 2021, about \$55,000 for a family of four<sup>1</sup>), placing them at economic disadvantage. The state's youngest children are diverse and are raised in a variety of family contexts and household structures.

1. Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. Poverty Thresholds by Size of Family and Number of Children. <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/income-poverty/historical-poverty-thresholds.html>

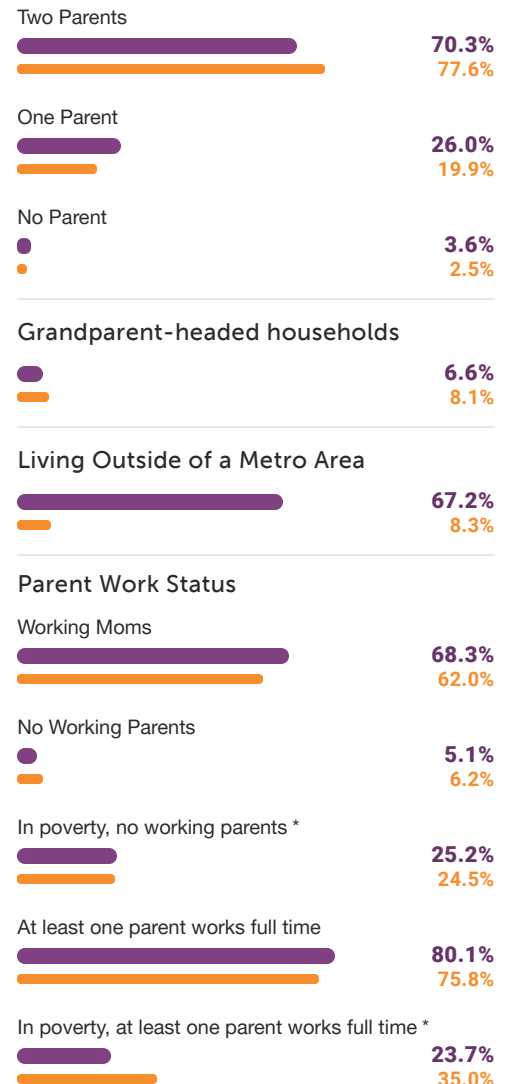
#### Race/ethnicity of infants and toddlers



#### Poverty status of infants and toddlers



#### Family Structure



\*Numbers are small; use caution in interpreting.

\*\*Subset of "In Poverty"

Note: N/A indicates Not Available

## How are South Dakota's babies faring in Good Health?

Supporting babies' and mothers' physical and mental health provides the foundation for infants' lifelong physical, cognitive, emotional, and social well-being. Babies' brains grow rapidly in the first years of life, and, in these early years, the brain works with other organs and organ systems to set the stage for subsequent development and health outcomes. Equitable access to good nutrition during the prenatal period and first years of life is key to ensure that babies receive the nourishment and care they need for a strong start in life. Strengthening equitable access to integrated, affordable maternal, pediatric, and family health care is also essential to meeting babies' and families' health and developmental needs.

South Dakota falls in the Getting Started (G) tier for the Good Health domain. A state's ranking is based on indicators of maternal and child health, including health care coverage, prenatal care, birth outcomes, and receipt of recommended preventive care as well as nutrition and mental health. South Dakota performs better than national averages on key indicators, such as the percentage of babies born at low birth weight and babies with a medical home. The state is performing worse than national averages on indicators such as the Medicaid income eligibility level for pregnant women and infant mortality rate.

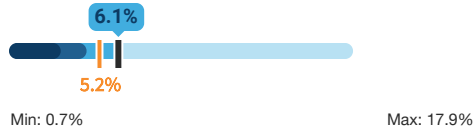
## Key Indicators of Good Health

● South Dakota ● National Avg

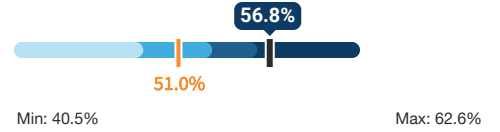
Eligibility limit (% FPL) for pregnant women in Medicaid



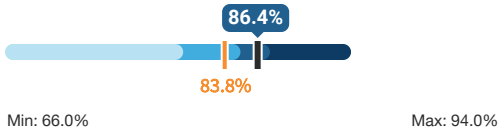
Uninsured low-income infants and toddlers



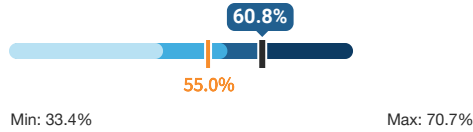
Medical home



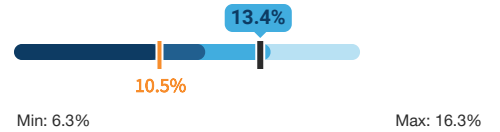
Infants ever breastfed **NR**



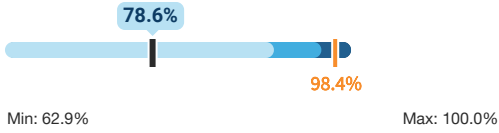
Infants breastfed at 6 months



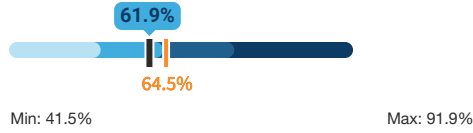
High weight-for-length in WIC **NR**



WIC coverage for infants \*



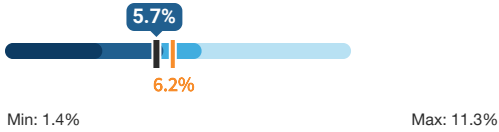
WIC coverage for one-year-olds \*



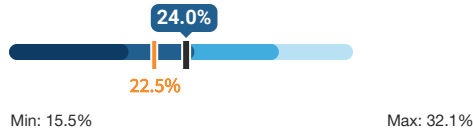
WIC coverage for two-year-olds \*



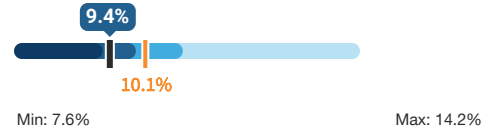
Late or no prenatal care received



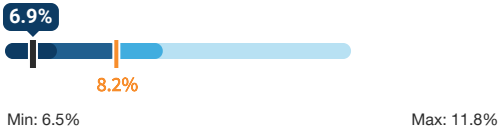
Mothers reporting less than optimal mental health



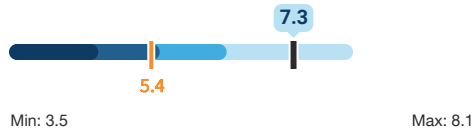
Babies born preterm



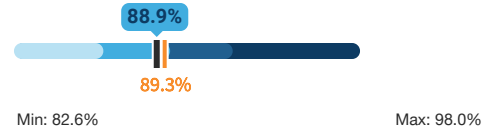
Babies with low birthweight



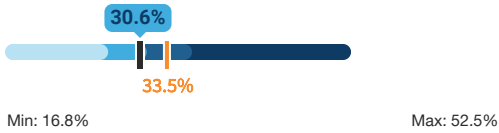
Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)



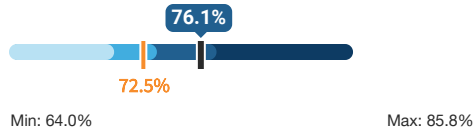
Preventive medical care received



Preventive dental care received



Received recommended vaccines



\*Numbers are small; use caution in interpreting.

## Good Health Policy in South Dakota

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Medicaid expansion state  | No <span style="color: red;">✗</span>    |
| CHIP maternal coverage for unborn child option <span style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">NR</span> | Yes <span style="color: green;">✓</span> |
| Postpartum extension of Medicaid coverage   | No law beyond mandatory 60 days          |
| Pregnant workers protection   | No protections                           |
| State Medicaid policy for maternal depression screening in well-child visits  | Recommended                              |
| Medicaid plan covers social-emotional screening for young children  | Yes <span style="color: green;">✓</span> |
| Medicaid plan covers IECMH services at home   | Yes <span style="color: green;">✓</span> |
| Medicaid plan covers IECMH services at pediatric/family medicine practices  | Yes <span style="color: green;">✓</span> |
| Medicaid plan covers IECMH services in early childhood education settings   | No <span style="color: red;">✗</span>    |

Note: N/A indicates Not Available

## All Good Health Indicators for South Dakota

● State Indicator    ● National Avg

### Health Care Coverage and Affordability

|  |                       |   |                     |
|--|-----------------------|---|---------------------|
| <span style="color: blue;">G</span> Eligibility limit (% FPL) for pregnant women in Medicaid | <b>138.0</b><br>200.0 | <span style="color: blue;">R</span> Uninsured low-income infants and toddlers | <b>6.1%</b><br>5.2% |
| <span style="color: blue;">W</span> Medical home   | <b>56.8%</b><br>51.0% |   |                     |

### Nutrition

|  |                       |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Infants ever breastfed <span style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">NR</span>        | <b>86.4%</b><br>83.8% | <span style="color: blue;">O</span> Infants breastfed at 6 months  | <b>60.8%</b><br>55.0% |
| High weight-for-length in WIC <span style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">NR</span> | <b>13.4%</b><br>NA    | <span style="color: blue;">G</span> WIC coverage for infants       | <b>78.6%</b><br>98.4% |
| <span style="color: blue;">R</span> WIC coverage for one-year-olds   | <b>61.9%</b><br>64.5% | <span style="color: blue;">G</span> WIC coverage for two-year-olds | <b>39.0%</b><br>48.1% |

### Maternal Health

|   |                       |   |                   |
|---|-----------------------|---|-------------------|
| <span style="color: blue;">O</span> Late or no prenatal care received                 | <b>5.5%</b><br>6.4%   | Maternal mortality rate (deaths per 100,000 live births) <span style="background-color: black; color: white; padding: 2px;">NR</span> | <b>NA</b><br>23.8 |
| <span style="color: blue;">O</span> Mothers reporting less than optimal mental health | <b>22.1%</b><br>21.9% |   |                   |

### Children's Health

|  |                       |   |                       |
|--|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| <span style="color: blue;">O</span> Babies born preterm                                  | <b>9.4%</b><br>10.1%  | <span style="color: blue;">W</span> Babies with low birthweight     | <b>6.9%</b><br>8.2%   |
| <span style="color: blue;">G</span> Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births) | <b>7.3</b><br>5.4     | <span style="color: blue;">R</span> Preventive dental care received | <b>30.6%</b><br>33.5% |
| <span style="color: blue;">R</span> Preventive medical care received                     | <b>88.9%</b><br>89.3% | <span style="color: blue;">O</span> Received recommended vaccines   | <b>76.1%</b><br>72.5% |

Note: N/A indicates Not Available.

# Strong Families

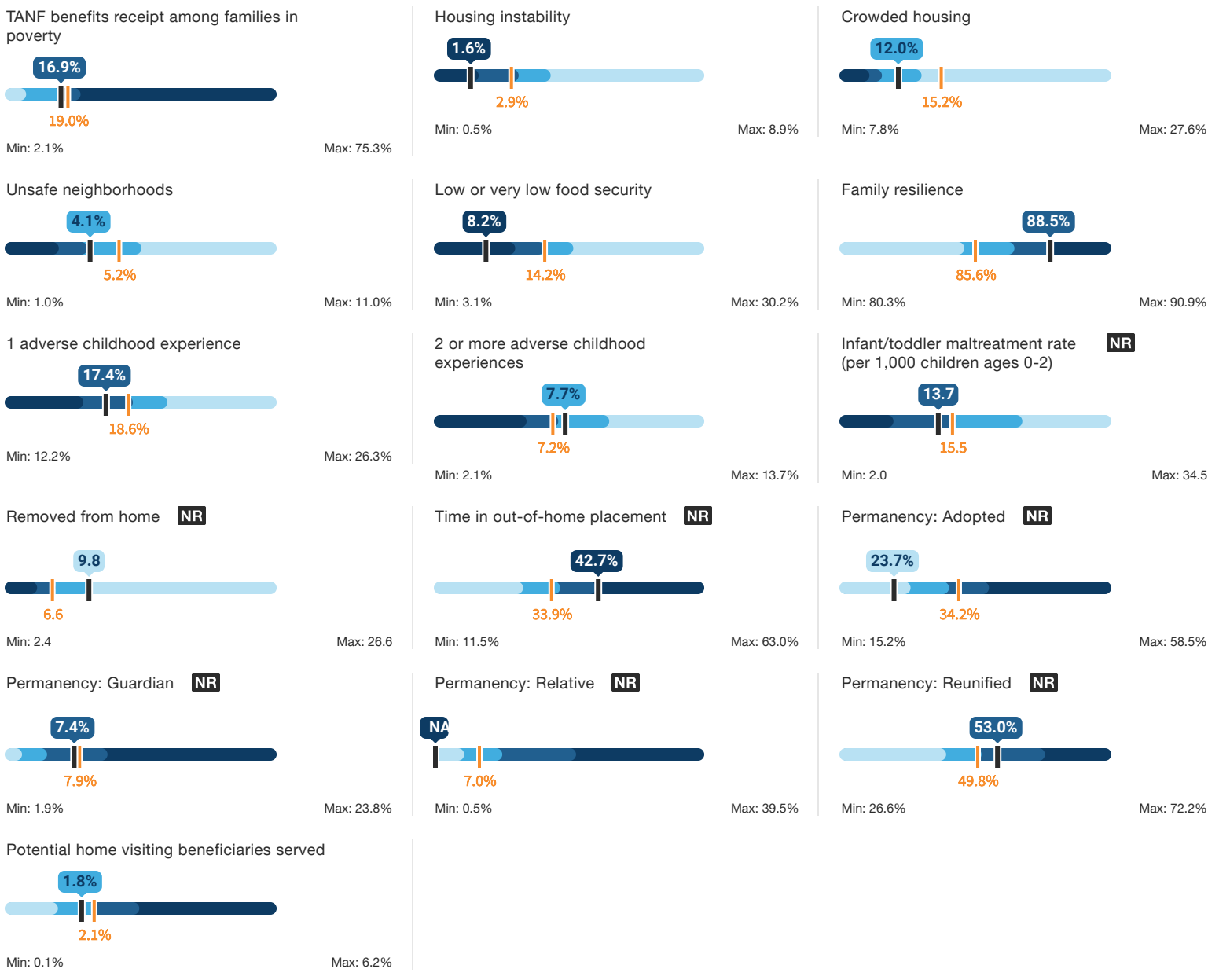
## How are South Dakota's babies faring in Strong Families?

Young children develop in the context of their families, where stability, safety, and supportive relationships nurture their growth. All families may benefit from parenting supports, but families with low income and in historically marginalized communities of color face additional challenges that impact their babies' immediate and future well-being. Many policies can be designed to address these disparities by race, ethnicity, and income, including the provision of safe and stable housing, home visiting services, family-friendly employer policies, economic support for families with low income, and tax credits that benefit families with young children.

South Dakota falls in the Reaching Forward (R) tier of states when it comes to indicators of Strong Families. The state's ranking in this domain reflects indicators on which it is performing better than the national average, such as the percentage of babies experiencing food insecurity and babies experiencing housing instability (moved 3 or more times). The state is performing close to or better than the national averages for Strong Families indicators used in the ranking.

## Key Indicators of Strong Families

● South Dakota ● National Avg



\*Numbers are small; use caution in interpreting.

## Strong Families Policy in South Dakota

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Paid family leave                         | No |
| Paid sick time that covers care for child | No |
| TANF work exemption                       | No |
| State child tax credit                    | No |
| State Earned Income Tax Credit            | No |

Note: N/A indicates Not Available

## All Strong Families Indicators for South Dakota

State Indicator

National Avg

### Basic Needs

|   |                       |                      |                     |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| TANF benefits receipt among families in poverty | <b>16.9%</b><br>19.0% | Housing instability  | <b>1.6%</b><br>2.9% |
| Crowded housing                                 | <b>12.0%</b><br>15.2% | Unsafe neighborhoods | <b>3.9%</b><br>5.0% |
| Low or very low food security                   | <b>8.2%</b><br>14.2%  |                      |                     |

### Child Well-being and Resilience

|  |                       |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Family resilience                            | <b>88.5%</b><br>85.6% | 1 adverse childhood experience <b>NR</b>                                 | <b>17.4%</b><br>18.6% |
| 2 or more adverse childhood experiences      | <b>7.7%</b><br>7.2%   | Infant/toddler maltreatment rate (per 1,000 children ages 0-2) <b>NR</b> | <b>13.7%</b><br>15.5% |
| Removed from home <b>NR</b>                  | <b>9.8%</b><br>6.6%   | Time in out-of-home placement <b>NR</b>                                  | <b>42.7%</b><br>33.9% |
| Permanency: Adopted <b>NR</b>                | <b>23.7%</b><br>34.2% | Permanency: Guardian <b>NR</b>   | <b>7.4%</b><br>7.9%   |
| Permanency: Relative <b>NR</b>               | <b>NA</b><br>7.0%     | Permanency: Reunified <b>NR</b>  | <b>53.0%</b><br>49.8% |
| Potential home visiting beneficiaries served | <b>1.8%</b><br>2.1%   |  |                       |

Note: N/A indicates Not Available.

# Positive Early Learning Experiences

## How are South Dakota's babies faring in Positive Early Learning?

Infants and toddlers learn through interactions with the significant adults in their lives and active exploration of enriching environments. The quality of babies' early learning experiences at home and in other care settings can impact their cognitive and social-emotional development as well as early literacy. High-quality early childhood care can strengthen parents' interactions with their children in the home learning environment and support parents' ability to go to work or attend school. Equitable access to high-quality care across factors like race, ethnicity, and income, ensures all infants and toddlers have the opportunity for optimal development. However, disparities in access to high-quality care remain across many states and communities in the United States.

South Dakota scores in the Working Efficiently (W) tier for Positive Early Learning Experiences. The state's ranking in this domain reflects indicators on which it is performing better than the national average, such as the percentage of infants and toddlers who received a developmental screening in the past year. South Dakota is doing worse than the national average on indicators such as the percentage of parents who sing to their babies daily. Beginning with the 2022 profile, infant care costs as a percentage of the state's median income for single and married parents are not factored into the ranking.

## Key Indicators of Positive Early Learning Experiences

● South Dakota ● National Avg

Parent reads to baby every day



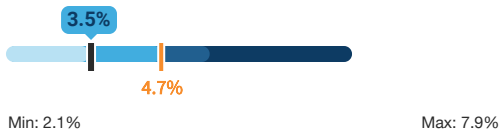
Parent sings to baby every day



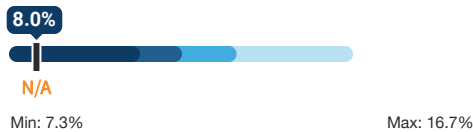
% Income-eligible infants/toddlers with Early Head Start access



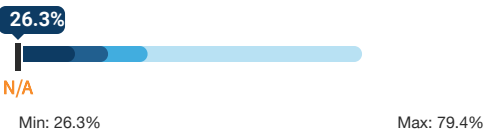
Low/moderate income infants/toddlers in CCDF funded-care



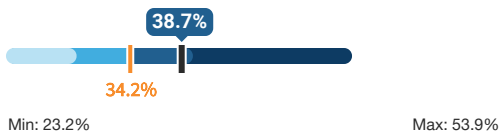
Cost of care, as % of income married families **NR**



Cost of care, as % of income single parents **NR**



Developmental screening received



Percentage of infants/toddlers receiving IDEA Part C services



\*Numbers are small; use caution in interpreting.

## Positive Early Learning Experiences Policy in South Dakota

|   |                 |   |
|---|-----------------|---|
| Adult/child ratio   | _____           | EHS standards met for 0 of 3 age groups |
| Level of teacher qualification required by the state beyond a high school diploma | _____           | CDA or state equivalent credential      |
| Group size  | _____           | EHS standards met for 0 of 3 age groups |
| Infant/toddler professional credential  | <b>NR</b> _____ | Yes ✓                                   |
| Families above 200% of FPL eligible for child care subsidy                        | _____           | Yes ✓                                   |
| State reimburses center-based child care  | _____           | Yes ✓                                   |
| At-risk children included in Part C eligibility definition                        | <b>NR</b> _____ | No ✗                                    |

Note: N/A indicates Not Available

## All Positive Early Learning Experiences Indicators for South Dakota

● State Indicator      ● National Avg

### Activities that Support Early Learning

|   |                       |   |                       |
|---|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| <b>R</b> Parent reads to baby every day | <b>36.5%</b><br>37.4% | <b>G</b> Parent sings to baby every day | <b>54.4%</b><br>58.1% |
|---|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|

### Access to Early Learning Programs

|  |                       |   |                     |
|--|-----------------------|---|---------------------|
| <b>O</b> % Income-eligible infants/toddlers with Early Head Start access | <b>15.0%</b><br>11.0% | <b>G</b> Low/moderate income infants/toddlers in CCDF-funded care | <b>3.5%</b><br>4.7% |
| Cost of care, as % of income married families <b>NR</b>                  | <b>8.0%</b><br>NA     | Cost of care, as % of income single parents <b>NR</b>             | <b>26.3%</b><br>NA  |

### Early Intervention

|   |                       |  |                     |
|---|-----------------------|--|---------------------|
| <b>O</b> Developmental screening received | <b>38.7%</b><br>34.2% | <b>R</b> Percentage of infants/toddlers receiving IDEA Part C services | <b>5.2%</b><br>6.8% |
| Timeliness of Part C services <b>NR</b>   | <b>92.1%</b><br>NA    |  |                     |

Note: N/A indicates Not Available.