



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 fact sheet provides a snapshot of how infants, toddlers, and their families are faring with respect to these three developmental domains. For each domain, selected child or family indicators and policy indicators are highlighted and compared to national averages. Important demographic information is also included. A summary table of all indicators is provided on the last page, for reference.



Demographics

Infants and toddlers in Colorado

Overview

Colorado is home to 201,809 infants and toddlers, representing 3.6 percent of the state's population. As many as 32 percent live in households with incomes less than twice the federal poverty line (in 2017, about \$50,000 a year for a family of four), placing them at economic disadvantage. America's youngest children are diverse and are raised in a variety of family contexts. A broad array of policies and services are required to ensure that all of them have an equitable start in life.

■ COLORADO ■ NATIONAL AVERAGE

Race/ethnicity of infants and toddlers

Non-Hispanic White
 ■ 56.1%
 ■ 49.3%

Hispanic
 ■ 31.0%
 ■ 26.1%

Non-Hispanic other
 ■ 5.0%
 ■ 5.1%

Non-Hispanic Black
 ■ 4.3%
 ■ 13.8%

Non-Hispanic Asian
 ■ 2.9%
 ■ 4.9%

American Indian/Alaska Native
 ■ 0.7%
 ■ 0.8%

Working moms

Mothers in the Labor Force
 ■ 63.5%
 ■ 61.5%

Poverty status of infants and toddlers

Above Low-Income
 ■ 67.8%
 ■ 55.4%

Low-Income
 ■ 19.1%
 ■ 22.0%

In Poverty
 ■ 13.1%
 ■ 22.7%

Infants and toddlers in poverty, by race

Non-Hispanic Black
 ■ 37.7%
 ■ 39.5%

Hispanic
 ■ 20.0%
 ■ 30.8%

Non-Hispanic Other
 ■ 10.7%
 ■ 20.0%

Non-Hispanic White
 ■ 7.9%
 ■ 14.6%

Family structure

2-Parent Family
 ■ 83.9%
 ■ 76.3%

1-Parent Family
 ■ 16.0%
 ■ 21.5%

No Parents Present
 ■ 0.1%
 ■ 2.2%

Grandparent-headed households

■ 7.0%
 ■ 9.4%

Rural/Non-metro area

Living Outside of a Metro Area
 ■ 6.4%
 ■ 8.7%



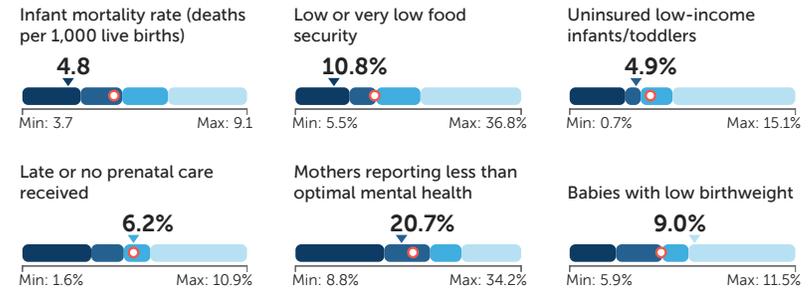
What is Good Health?

Good physical and mental health provide the foundation for babies to develop physically, cognitively, emotionally, and socially. The rate of brain growth is faster in the first 3 years than at any other stage of life, and this growth sets the stage for subsequent development. Access to good nutrition and affordable maternal, pediatric, and family health care are essential to ensure that babies receive the nourishment and care they need for a strong start in life.

Colorado falls in the Working Effectively (W) tier of states when it comes to the overall health of infants and toddlers. The state's high ranking in the Good Health domain reflects indicators of nutrition, food security, and infant/toddler mental health. However, in comparison to other states, there is a greater percentage of Colorado babies with low birthweight, which puts the state in the Getting Started (G) tier for this indicator.

Six Key Indicators of Good Health

KEY ← Range of all state values → ▼ Colorado ○ National average
G Getting Started R Reaching Forward O Improving Outcomes W Working Effectively



Good Health Policy in Colorado

Medicaid expansion state	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
State Medicaid policy for maternal depression screening in well-child visits	Allowed
Medicaid plan covers social-emotional screening for young children	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Medicaid plan covers IECMH services at home	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Medicaid plan covers IECMH services at pediatric/family medicine practices	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Medicaid plan covers IECMH services at ECE programs	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



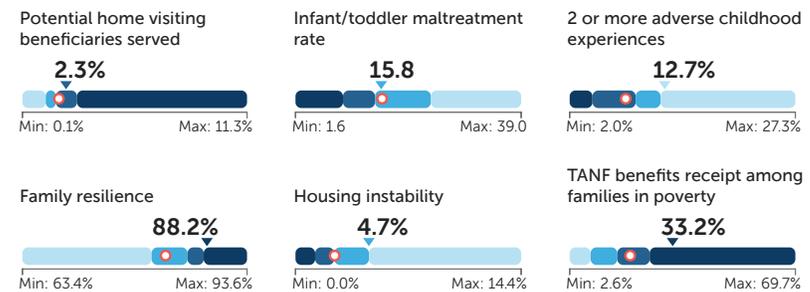
What Defines Strong Families?

Young children develop in the context of their families, where stability and supportive relationships nurture their growth. All families of infants and toddlers benefit from support with parenting, and many—particularly those challenged by economic instability—need access to resources that help them meet their children's daily and developmental needs. Important supports include home visiting services, child welfare systems that are responsive to young children's needs, and family-friendly employer policies that provide paid sick and family leave.

Colorado falls in the Improving Outcomes (O) tier of states when it comes to indicators of Strong Families. The state's high ranking in this domain reflects indicators of access to basic needs and supports, such as TANF benefits for families living in poverty, as well as family resilience. However, some of Colorado's child welfare indicators are in the Getting Started (G) tier, such as its greater prevalence of adverse childhood experiences as well as unsafe neighborhoods, when compared to most other states.

Six Key Indicators of Strong Families

KEY ← Range of all state values → ▼ Colorado ○ National average
G Getting Started R Reaching Forward O Improving Outcomes W Working Effectively



Strong Families Policy in Colorado

Paid sick time that covers care for child	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Paid family leave	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>



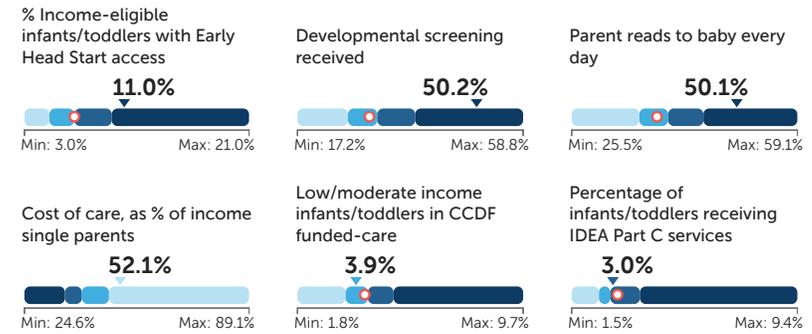
What Defines Positive Early Learning Experiences?

Infants and toddlers learn through play, active exploration of their environment, and, most importantly, through interactions with the significant adults in their lives. The quality of babies' early learning experiences at home and in other care settings has a lasting impact on their preparedness for life-long learning and success. Parents who require child care while they work or attend school need access to affordable, high-quality care options that promote positive development.

Colorado scores in the Working Effectively (W) tier of states when considering key indicators related to early care and education and early intervention for infants and toddlers. The state's high ranking in the Positive Early Learning Experiences domain reflects indicators such as parental engagement in reading to and singing songs to their babies daily, and the percentage of income-eligible young children with access to Early Head Start. However, the average cost of infant care is more burdensome for families in Colorado in comparison to other states. In addition, Colorado has not set an income eligibility level for child care subsidies for low-income parents.

Six Key Indicators of Positive Early Learning Experiences

KEY ← Range of all state values → ▼ Colorado ○ National average
 G Getting Started R Reaching Forward O Improving Outcomes W Working Effectively



Positive Early Learning Experiences Policy in Colorado

Families above 200% of FPL eligible for child care subsidy No ❌

All indicators for Colorado

G Getting Started R Reaching Forward O Improving Outcomes W Working Effectively

Good Health

R Eligibility limit (% FPL) for pregnant women in Medicaid	200.0	National average: 200.0	O Uninsured low-income infants/toddlers	4.9%	National average: 5.8%
W Low or very low food security	10.8%	National average: 16.5%	W Infants ever breastfed	90.9%	National average: 83.2%
W Infants breastfed at 6 months	63.9%	National average: 57.6%	R Late or no prenatal care received	6.2%	National average: 6.2%
O Mothers reporting less than optimal mental health	20.7%	National average: 22.0%	R Preventive medical care received	92.5%	National average: 90.7%
O Preventive dental care received	34.9%	National average: 30.0%	G Babies with low birthweight	9.0%	National average: 8.2%
W Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	4.8	National average: 5.9	W Received recommended vaccines	76.4%	National average: 70.7%

Strong Families

R Housing instability	4.7% <i>National average: 2.5%</i>	R Crowded housing	12.0% <i>National average: 15.6%</i>
W TANF benefits receipt among families in poverty	33.2% <i>National average: 20.6%</i>	R Infant/toddler maltreatment rate	15.8 <i>National average: 16.0</i>
G Unsafe neighborhoods	8.1% <i>National average: 6.3%</i>	W Family resilience	88.2% <i>National average: 82.6%</i>
O 1 adverse childhood experience	19.2% <i>National average: 21.9%</i>	G 2 or more adverse childhood experiences	12.7% <i>National average: 8.3%</i>
R Infants/toddlers exiting foster care to permanency	98.3% <i>National average: 98.4%</i>	O Potential home visiting beneficiaries served	2.3% <i>National average: 1.9%</i>

Positive Early Learning Experiences

W Parent reads to baby every day	50.1% <i>National average: 38.2%</i>	W Parent sings to baby every day	64.0% <i>National average: 56.4%</i>
W % Income-eligible infants/toddlers with Early Head Start access	11.0% <i>National average: 7.0%</i>	G Cost of care, as % of income married families	16.7% <i>National average: N/A</i>
G Cost of care, as % of income single parents	52.1% <i>National average: N/A</i>	R Low/moderate income infants/toddlers in CCDF funded-care	3.9% <i>National average: 4.2%</i>
W Developmental screening received	50.2% <i>National average: 30.4%</i>	O Infants/toddlers with developmental delay	0.0% <i>National average: 1.1%</i>
O Percentage of infants/toddlers receiving IDEA Part C services	3.0% <i>National average: 3.1%</i>		