



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 Georgia

Overview

Georgia is home to 395,184 infants and toddlers, representing 3.8 percent of the state's population. As many as 52 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.

■ GEORGIA ■ NATIONAL AVERAGE

Race/ethnicity of infants and toddlers

Non-Hispanic White
 42.4%
 49.3%

Non-Hispanic Black
 33.6%
 13.8%

Hispanic
 15.8%
 26.1%

Non-Hispanic other
 4.3%
 5.1%

Non-Hispanic Asian
 3.6%
 4.9%

American Indian/Alaska Native
 0.2%
 0.8%

Working moms

Mothers in the Labor Force
 61.7%
 61.5%

Poverty status of infants and toddlers

Above Low-Income
 48.4%
 55.4%

In Poverty
 26.8%
 22.7%

Low-Income
 24.8%
 22.0%

Infants and toddlers in poverty, by race

Hispanic
 37.1%
 30.8%

Non-Hispanic Black
 35.3%
 39.5%

Non-Hispanic Other
 27.3%
 20.0%

Non-Hispanic White
 16.7%
 14.6%

Family structure

2-Parent Family
 71.4%
 76.3%

1-Parent Family
 26.6%
 21.5%

No Parents Present
 2.0%
 2.2%

Grandparent-headed households

12.9%
 9.4%

Rural/Non-metro area

Living Outside of a Metro Area
 4.8%
 8.7%

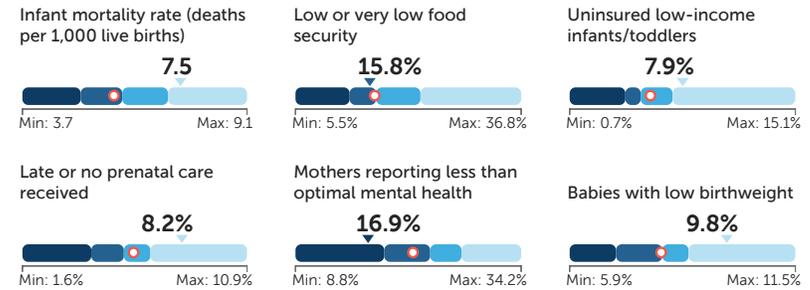
What is Good Health?

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.

Georgia falls in the Reaching Forward (R) tier of states when it comes to the overall health of infants and toddlers. The state's low ranking in the Good Health domain reflects indicators such as the state's relatively higher infant mortality rate and the prevalence of low birthweight, in comparison to most other states. However, on indicators of food security and nutrition, Georgia is in the Improving Outcomes (O) and Reaching Forward (R) tiers, respectively.

Six Key Indicators of Good Health

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



Good Health Policy in Georgia

Medicaid expansion state	No ❌
State Medicaid policy for maternal depression screening in well-child visits	Required
Medicaid plan covers social-emotional screening for young children	N/A
Medicaid plan covers IECMH services at home	N/A
Medicaid plan covers IECMH services at pediatric/family medicine practices	N/A
Medicaid plan covers IECMH services at ECE programs	N/A

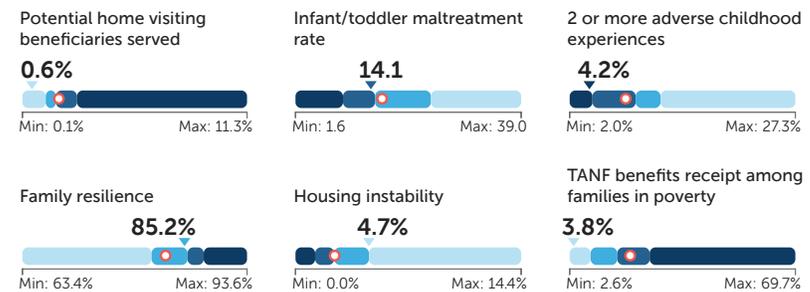
What Defines Strong Families?

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.

Georgia falls in the Reaching Forward (R) tier of states when it comes to indicators of Strong Families. The state's low ranking in this domain reflects indicators such as housing instability, TANF benefits receipt among families in poverty, and the percentage of infants and toddlers receiving home visiting services. Some of Georgia's child welfare indicators are in the Working Effectively (W) tier, such as neighborhood safety and the prevalence of adverse childhood experiences.

Six Key Indicators of Strong Families

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



Strong Families Policy in Georgia

Paid sick time that covers care for child	No ❌
Paid family leave	No ❌



What Defines Positive Early Learning Experiences?

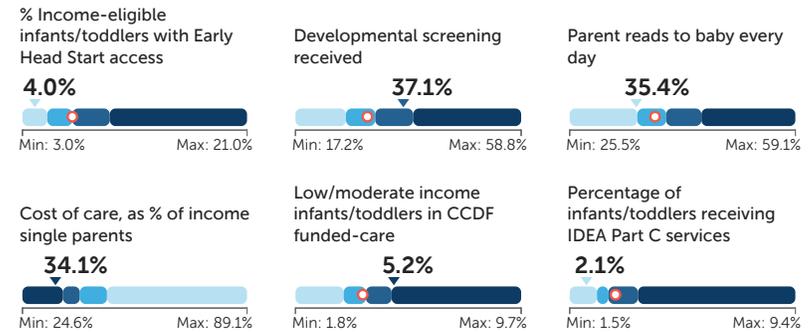
Infants and toddlers learn through play, active exploration of their environment, and, most importantly, through interactions with the significant adults in their lives. The quality of babies' early learning experiences at home and in other care settings has a lasting impact on their preparedness for 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.

Georgia scores in the Reaching Forward (R) tier of states when considering key indicators related to early care and education and early intervention for infants and toddlers. The state's low ranking in the Positive Early Learning Experiences domain reflects indicators of parents reading and singing songs to their babies daily, the percentage of income-eligible young children with access to Early Head Start, and the percentage of young children receiving IDEA Part C services. However, the average infant care costs, as a percentage of single parents' and married parents' incomes, are less burdensome in Georgia, which places the state in the Working Effectively (W) tier for these two indicators.

Six Key Indicators of Positive Early Learning Experiences

KEY ← Range of all state values → ▼ Georgia ○ National average

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



Positive Early Learning Experiences Policy in Georgia

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

All indicators for Georgia

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

Good Health

W Eligibility limit (% FPL) for pregnant women in Medicaid	225.0	<i>National average: 200.0</i>	G Uninsured low-income infants/toddlers	7.9%	<i>National average: 5.8%</i>
O Low or very low food security	15.8%	<i>National average: 16.5%</i>	O Infants ever breastfed	84.0%	<i>National average: 83.2%</i>
R Infants breastfed at 6 months	55.5%	<i>National average: 57.6%</i>	G Late or no prenatal care received	8.2%	<i>National average: 6.2%</i>
W Mothers reporting less than optimal mental health	16.9%	<i>National average: 22.0%</i>	O Preventive medical care received	93.0%	<i>National average: 90.7%</i>
W Preventive dental care received	37.6%	<i>National average: 30.0%</i>	G Babies with low birthweight	9.8%	<i>National average: 8.2%</i>
G Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	7.5	<i>National average: 5.9</i>	W Received recommended vaccines	77.3%	<i>National average: 70.7%</i>

Strong Families

G Housing instability	4.7% <i>National average: 2.5%</i>	R Crowded housing	11.8% <i>National average: 15.6%</i>
G TANF benefits receipt among families in poverty	3.8% <i>National average: 20.6%</i>	O Infant/toddler maltreatment rate	14.1 <i>National average: 16.0</i>
W Unsafe neighborhoods	0.0% <i>National average: 6.3%</i>	R Family resilience	85.2% <i>National average: 82.6%</i>
R 1 adverse childhood experience	23.0% <i>National average: 21.9%</i>	W 2 or more adverse childhood experiences	4.2% <i>National average: 8.3%</i>
G Infants/toddlers exiting foster care to permanency	96.7% <i>National average: 98.4%</i>	G Potential home visiting beneficiaries served	0.6% <i>National average: 1.9%</i>

Positive Early Learning Experiences

G Parent reads to baby every day	35.4% <i>National average: 38.2%</i>	R Parent sings to baby every day	56.2% <i>National average: 56.4%</i>
G % Income-eligible infants/toddlers with Early Head Start access	4.0% <i>National average: 7.0%</i>	W Cost of care, as % of income married families	9.8% <i>National average: N/A</i>
W Cost of care, as % of income single parents	34.1% <i>National average: N/A</i>	W Low/moderate income infants/toddlers in CCDF funded-care	5.2% <i>National average: 4.2%</i>
O Developmental screening received	37.1% <i>National average: 30.4%</i>	G Infants/toddlers with developmental delay	3.0% <i>National average: 1.1%</i>
G Percentage of infants/toddlers receiving IDEA Part C services	2.1% <i>National average: 3.1%</i>		