



**W**here 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

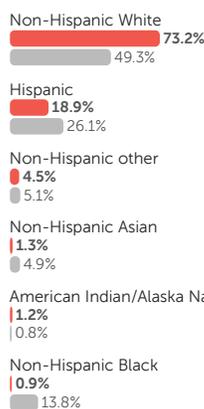
### Infants and toddlers in Idaho

#### Overview

Idaho is home to 70,091 infants and toddlers, representing 4.1 percent of the state's population. As many as 48 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.

■ IDAHO ■ NATIONAL AVERAGE

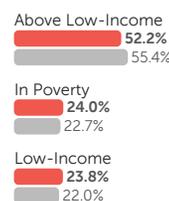
#### Race/ethnicity of infants and toddlers



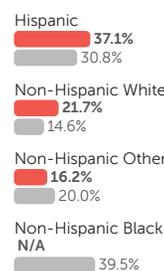
#### Working moms



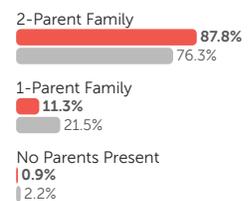
#### Poverty status of infants and toddlers



#### Infants and toddlers in poverty, by race



#### Family structure



#### Grandparent-headed households



#### Rural/Non-metro area



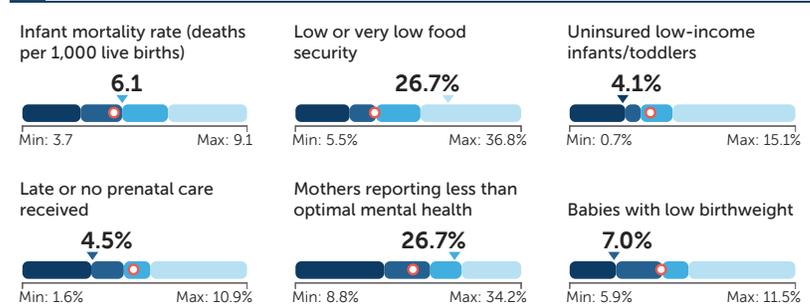
### What is Good Health?

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.

Idaho falls in the Improving Outcomes (O) tier of states when it comes to the overall health of infants and toddlers. The state's high ranking in the Good Health domain primarily reflects indicators of nutrition and the percentage of uninsured low-income infants and toddlers. However, a greater percentage of Idaho's infants and toddlers experience low or very low food security as well as barriers to health care access and affordability, compared to those in other states.

### Six Key Indicators of Good Health

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



### Good Health Policy in Idaho

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

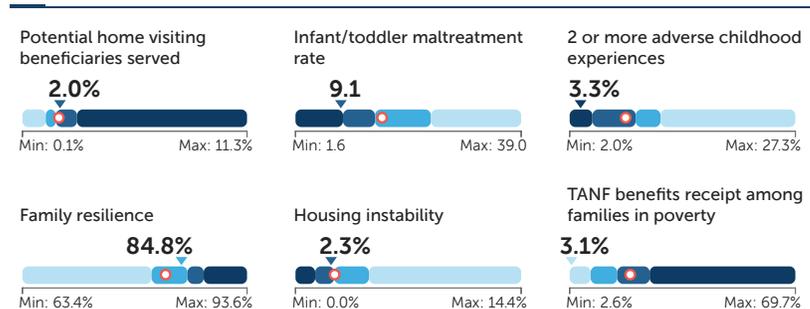
### What Defines Strong Families?

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.

Idaho 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, home visiting, and adverse childhood experiences. However, a few indicators are in the Getting Started (G) tier, such as the relatively lower percentage of families with young children living in poverty that receive TANF benefits in Idaho compared to other states.

### Six Key Indicators of Strong Families

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



### Strong Families Policy in Idaho

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



# Positive Early Learning Experiences

In Idaho



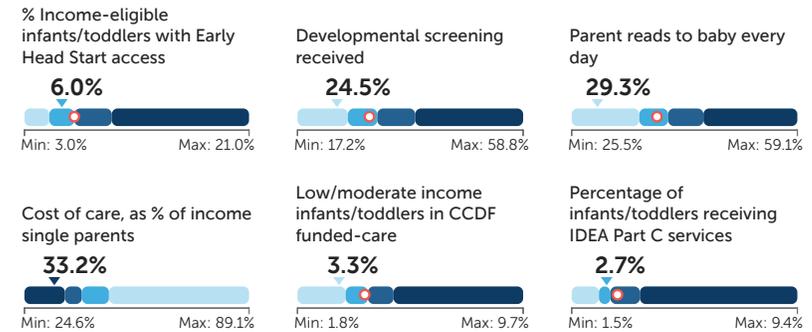
## What Defines Positive Early Learning Experiences?

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.

Idaho scores in the Getting Started (G) 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 such as the percentage of parents reading to and singing songs to their babies daily, and the percentage of low/moderate income infants and toddlers in CCDF-funded care. Idaho's average infant care costs as a percentage of single parents' and married parents' incomes are less burdensome compared to other states, and these indicators score in the Working Effectively (W) tier.

## Six Key Indicators of Positive Early Learning Experiences

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



## Positive Early Learning Experiences Policy in Idaho

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

## All indicators for Idaho

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

### Good Health

G Eligibility limit (% FPL) for pregnant women in Medicaid	138.0	National average: 200.0	W Uninsured low-income infants/toddlers	4.1%	National average: 5.8%
G Low or very low food security	26.7%	National average: 16.5%	W Infants ever breastfed	90.1%	National average: 83.2%
O Infants breastfed at 6 months	62.1%	National average: 57.6%	O Late or no prenatal care received	4.5%	National average: 6.2%
R Mothers reporting less than optimal mental health	26.7%	National average: 22.0%	O Preventive medical care received	94.2%	National average: 90.7%
R Preventive dental care received	31.0%	National average: 30.0%	O Babies with low birthweight	7.0%	National average: 8.2%
R Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	6.1	National average: 5.9	O Received recommended vaccines	73.9%	National average: 70.7%

## Strong Families

<b>O</b> Housing instability	<b>2.3%</b> <i>National average: 2.5%</i>	<b>O</b> Crowded housing	<b>10.0%</b> <i>National average: 15.6%</i>
<b>G</b> TANF benefits receipt among families in poverty	<b>3.1%</b> <i>National average: 20.6%</i>	<b>O</b> Infant/toddler maltreatment rate	<b>9.1</b> <i>National average: 16.0</i>
<b>O</b> Unsafe neighborhoods	<b>2.5%</b> <i>National average: 6.3%</i>	<b>R</b> Family resilience	<b>84.8%</b> <i>National average: 82.6%</i>
<b>G</b> 1 adverse childhood experience	<b>26.2%</b> <i>National average: 21.9%</i>	<b>W</b> 2 or more adverse childhood experiences	<b>3.3%</b> <i>National average: 8.3%</i>
<b>R</b> Infants/toddlers exiting foster care to permanency	<b>98.4%</b> <i>National average: 98.4%</i>	<b>O</b> Potential home visiting beneficiaries served	<b>2.0%</b> <i>National average: 1.9%</i>

## Positive Early Learning Experiences

<b>G</b> Parent reads to baby every day	<b>29.3%</b> <i>National average: 38.2%</i>	<b>G</b> Parent sings to baby every day	<b>47.5%</b> <i>National average: 56.4%</i>
<b>R</b> % Income-eligible infants/toddlers with Early Head Start access	<b>6.0%</b> <i>National average: 7.0%</i>	<b>W</b> Cost of care, as % of income married families	<b>10.5%</b> <i>National average: N/A</i>
<b>W</b> Cost of care, as % of income single parents	<b>33.2%</b> <i>National average: N/A</i>	<b>G</b> Low/moderate income infants/toddlers in CCDF funded-care	<b>3.3%</b> <i>National average: 4.2%</i>
<b>G</b> Developmental screening received	<b>24.5%</b> <i>National average: 30.4%</i>	<b>R</b> Infants/toddlers with developmental delay	<b>1.5%</b> <i>National average: 1.1%</i>
<b>R</b> Percentage of infants/toddlers receiving IDEA Part C services	<b>2.7%</b> <i>National average: 3.1%</i>		