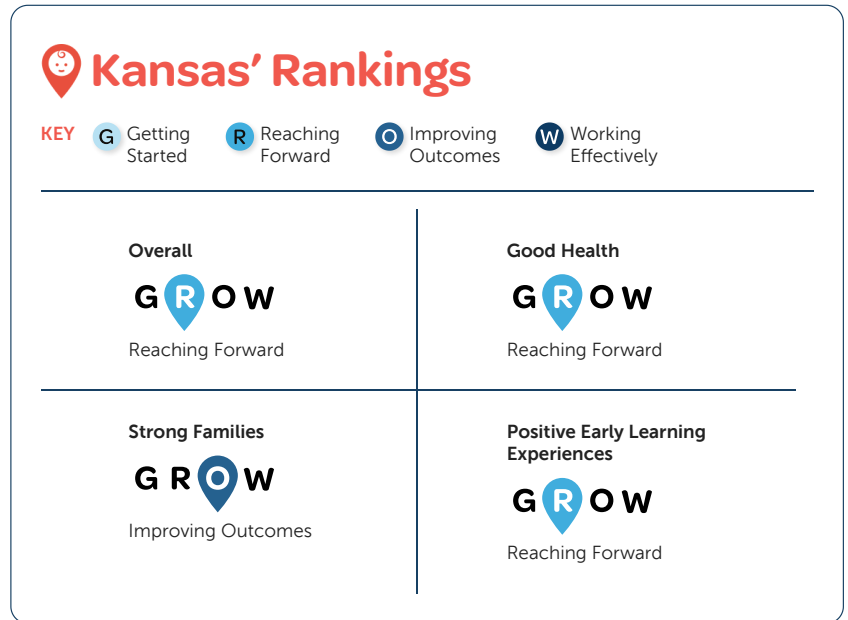




Where children are born can affect their chances for a strong start in life. Babies need good health, strong families, and positive early learning experiences to foster their healthy brain development and help them realize their full potential.

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

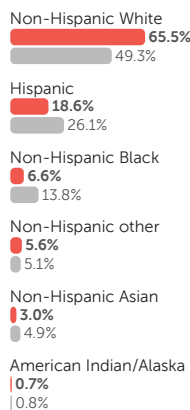
Infants and toddlers in Kansas

Overview

Kansas is home to 115,044 infants and toddlers, representing 3.9 percent of the state's population. As many as 38 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.

■ KANSAS ■ NATIONAL AVERAGE

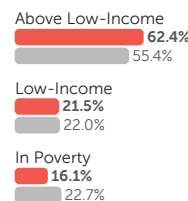
Race/ethnicity of infants and toddlers



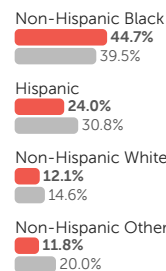
Working moms



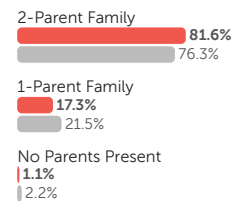
Poverty status of infants and toddlers



Infants and toddlers in poverty, by race



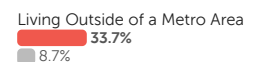
Family structure



Grandparent-headed households



Rural/Non-metro area



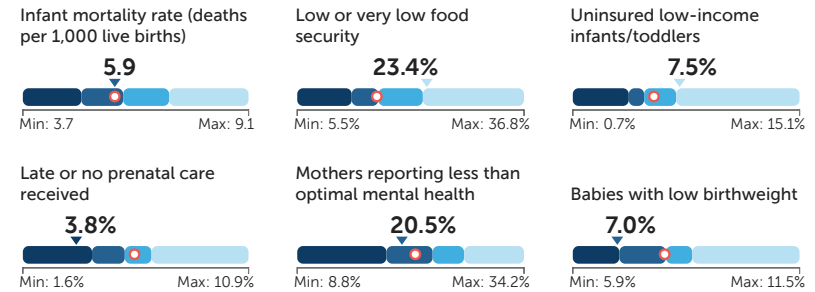
What is Good Health?

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.

Kansas 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 of health care access and affordability, food security, and some indicators of children's health, such as preventive medical and dental care received. However, Kansas is in the Working Effectively (W) tier when it comes to the percentage of women receiving late or no prenatal care.

Six Key Indicators of Good Health

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



Good Health Policy in Kansas

Medicaid expansion state	No ❌
State Medicaid policy for maternal depression screening in well-child visits	No policy
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	Yes ✅

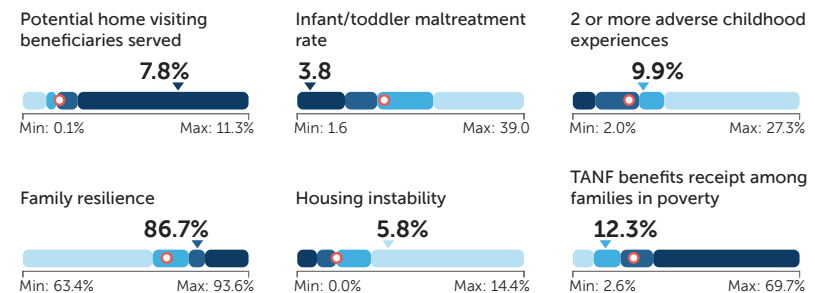
What Defines Strong Families?

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.

Kansas 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 primarily reflects some indicators of child welfare and access to basic needs and supports. However, Kansas is in the Getting Started (G) tier when it comes to the percentage of infants and toddlers experiencing housing instability.

Six Key Indicators of Strong Families

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



Strong Families Policy in Kansas

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



Positive Early Learning Experiences

In Kansas



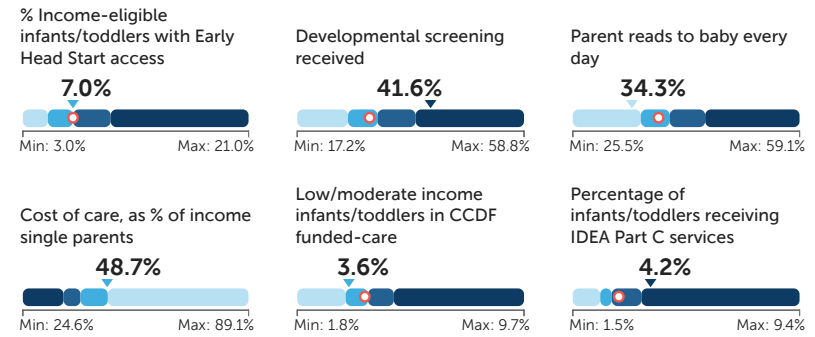
What Defines Positive Early Learning Experiences?

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.

Kansas 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 reflects indicators such as its relatively more burdensome infant care costs as a percentage of single parents' and married parents' incomes, and the percentage of income-eligible infants and toddlers with access to Early Head Start. In contrast, Kansas is in the Working Effectively (W) tier for the percentage of young children receiving IDEA Part C services.

Six Key Indicators of Positive Early Learning Experiences

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



Positive Early Learning Experiences Policy in Kansas

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

All indicators for Kansas

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

Good Health

R Eligibility limit (% FPL) for pregnant women in Medicaid	171.0	National average: 200.0	G Uninsured low-income infants/toddlers	7.5%	National average: 5.8%
G Low or very low food security	23.4%	National average: 16.5%	O Infants ever breastfed	83.6%	National average: 83.2%
R Infants breastfed at 6 months	58.2%	National average: 57.6%	W Late or no prenatal care received	3.8%	National average: 6.2%
O Mothers reporting less than optimal mental health	20.5%	National average: 22.0%	R Preventive medical care received	92.4%	National average: 90.7%
G Preventive dental care received	18.2%	National average: 30.0%	O Babies with low birthweight	7.0%	National average: 8.2%
O Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	5.9	National average: 5.9	W Received recommended vaccines	76.4%	National average: 70.7%

Strong Families

G Housing instability	5.8% <i>National average: 2.5%</i>	R Crowded housing	11.6% <i>National average: 15.6%</i>
R TANF benefits receipt among families in poverty	12.3% <i>National average: 20.6%</i>	W Infant/toddler maltreatment rate	3.8 <i>National average: 16.0</i>
O Unsafe neighborhoods	4.3% <i>National average: 6.3%</i>	O Family resilience	86.7% <i>National average: 82.6%</i>
O 1 adverse childhood experience	20.1% <i>National average: 21.9%</i>	R 2 or more adverse childhood experiences	9.9% <i>National average: 8.3%</i>
G Infants/toddlers exiting foster care to permanency	97.6% <i>National average: 98.4%</i>	W Potential home visiting beneficiaries served	7.8% <i>National average: 1.9%</i>

Positive Early Learning Experiences

G Parent reads to baby every day	34.3% <i>National average: 38.2%</i>	G Parent sings to baby every day	54.4% <i>National average: 56.4%</i>
R % Income-eligible infants/toddlers with Early Head Start access	7.0% <i>National average: 7.0%</i>	G Cost of care, as % of income married families	14.6% <i>National average: N/A</i>
R Cost of care, as % of income single parents	48.7% <i>National average: N/A</i>	R Low/moderate income infants/toddlers in CCDF funded-care	3.6% <i>National average: 4.2%</i>
W Developmental screening received	41.6% <i>National average: 30.4%</i>	R Infants/toddlers with developmental delay	1.1% <i>National average: 1.1%</i>
W Percentage of infants/toddlers receiving IDEA Part C services	4.2% <i>National average: 3.1%</i>		