# The State of Michigan'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.
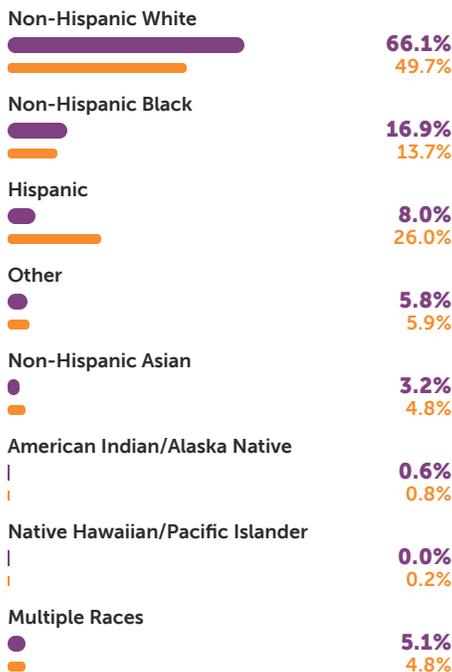
# Demographics

● Michigan   ● National Average

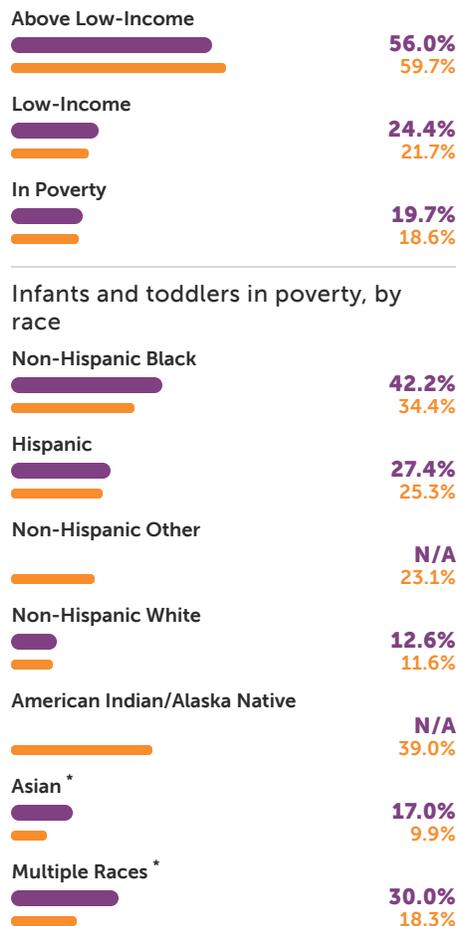## Infants and toddlers in Michigan

Michigan is home to 333,798 babies, representing 3.3 percent of the state's population. As many as 44.0 percent live in households with incomes less than twice the federal poverty line (in 2019, about $51,500 a year for a family of four), placing them at economic disadvantage. The state's youngest children are diverse and are raised in a variety of family contexts and household structures.
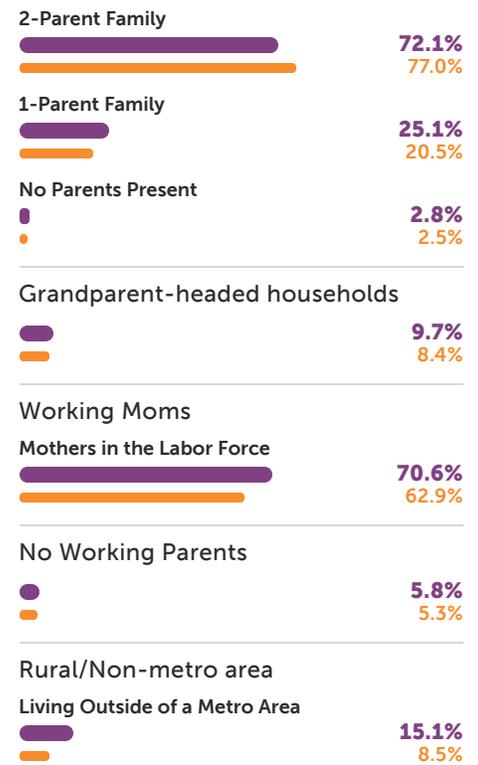
### Race/ethnicity of infants and toddlers

**Non-Hispanic White**
66.1%
49.7%

**Non-Hispanic Black**
16.9%
13.7%

**Hispanic**
8.0%
26.0%

**Other**
5.8%
5.9%

**Non-Hispanic Asian**
3.2%
4.8%

**American Indian/Alaska Native**
0.6%
0.8%

**Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander**
0.0%
0.2%

**Multiple Races**
5.1%
4.8%

### Poverty status of infants and toddlers

**Above Low-Income**
56.0%
59.7%

**Low-Income**
24.4%
21.7%

**In Poverty**
19.7%
18.6%

### Infants and toddlers in poverty, by race

**Non-Hispanic Black**
42.2%
34.4%

**Hispanic**
27.4%
25.3%

**Non-Hispanic Other**
N/A
23.1%

**Non-Hispanic White**
12.6%
11.6%

**American Indian/Alaska Native**
N/A
39.0%

**Asian** *
17.0%
9.9%

**Multiple Races** *
30.0%
18.3%

### Family structure

**2-Parent Family**
72.1%
77.0%

**1-Parent Family**
25.1%
20.5%

**No Parents Present**
2.8%
2.5%

### Grandparent-headed households
9.7%
8.4%

### Working Moms

**Mothers in the Labor Force**
70.6%
62.9%

### No Working Parents
5.8%
5.3%

### Rural/Non-metro area

**Living Outside of a Metro Area**
15.1%
8.5%

*Numbers are small; use caution in interpreting.*
*Note: N/A indicates Not Available*

# Good Health

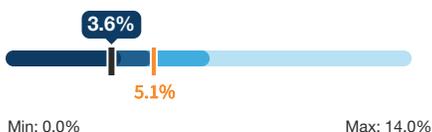## How are Michigan's babies faring in Good Health?

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.

Michigan falls in the Reaching Forward (R) 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 food security, nutrition, and mental health. Michigan performs better than national averages on key indicators, such as the percentages of babies breastfed at 6 months and babies receiving preventive medical care. The state is performing worse than national averages on indicators such as the percentages of babies receiving preventive dental care and mothers reporting less than favorable mental health.
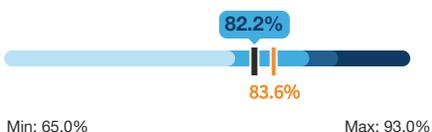
## Key Indicators of Good Health
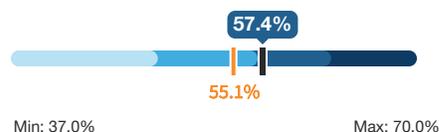
● Michigan    ● National Avg
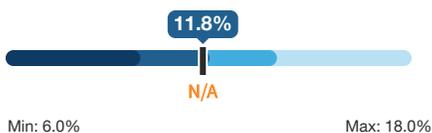
### Uninsured low-income infants/toddlers
3.6%
5.1%
Min: 0.0%    Max: 14.0%

### Ever breastfed
82.2%
83.6%
Min: 65.0%    Max: 93.0%

### Infants breastfed at 6 months
57.4%
55.1%
Min: 37.0%    Max: 70.0%

### High weight-for-length†
11.8%
N/A
Min: 6.0%    Max: 18.0%

### Late or no prenatal care received
4.8%
6.2%
Min: 2.0%    Max: 11.0%

### Mothers reporting less than optimal mental health
27.1%
20.3%
Min: 12.0%    Max: 31.0%
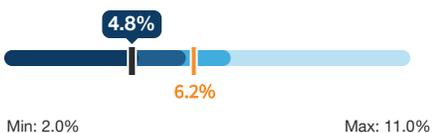
### Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)
6.2
5.7
Min: 3.6    Max: 8.3
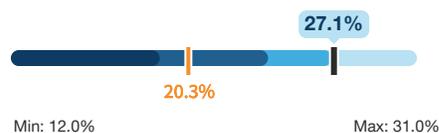
### Babies with low birthweight
8.5%
8.3%
Min: 6.0%    Max: 12.0%

### Preterm births†
10.0%
10.0%
Min: 8.0%    Max: 14.0%
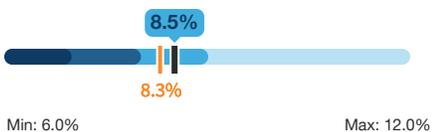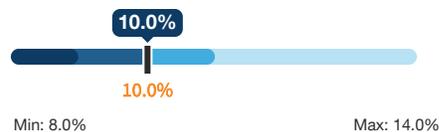
### Preventative medical care received
93.0%
91.1%
Min: 85.0%    Max: 97.0%
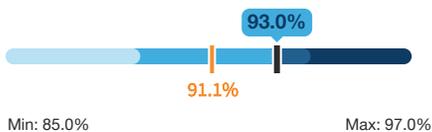
### Preventative dental care received
25.9%
33.0%
Min: 17.0%    Max: 52.0%

### Received recommended vaccines
70.5%
72.8%
Min: 62.0%    Max: 84.0%
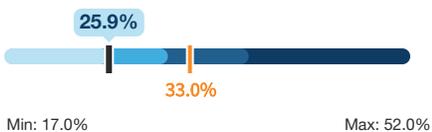
### Medical home†
49.1%
51.0%
Min: 44.0%    Max: 64.0%
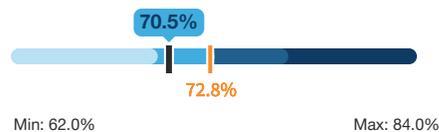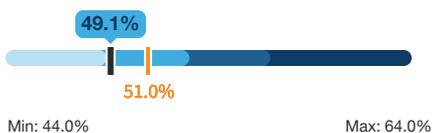
# Good Health

## Good Health Policy in Michigan

| | |
|---|---|
| Medicaid expansion state | Yes ✔ |
| State Medicaid policy for maternal depression screening in well-child visits | Allowed |
| 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 | No ✘ |
| Medicaid plan covers IECMH services in early childhood education settings | Yes ✔ |
| Pregnant workers protection[†] | No protections |
| Postpartum extension of Medicaid coverage[†] | No law beyond mandatory 60 days |

*†This indicator is not factored into the GROW tier rankings.*
*Note: N/A indicates Not Applicable*

## All Good Health Indicators for Michigan

● State Indicator    ● National Avg

| Indicator | State | National |
|---|---|---|
| **R** Eligibility limit (% FPL) for pregnant women in Medicaid | **200** | 200 |
| **G** Low or very low food security | **17.7%** | 13.7% |
| **O** Infants breastfed at 6 months | **57.4%** | 55.1% |
| **O** High weight-for-length[†] | **11.8%** | N/A |
| **G** Mothers reporting less than optimal mental health | **27.1%** | 20.3% |
| **R** Babies with low birthweight | **8.5%** | 8.3% |
| **R** Preventive medical care received | **93.0%** | 91.1% |
| **R** Received recommended vaccines | **70.5%** | 72.8% |
| Maternal mortality | **N/A** | 17.4 |
| **O** Uninsured low-income infants/toddlers | **3.6%** | 5.1% |
| **R** Infants ever breastfed | **82.2%** | 83.6% |
| **W** WIC coverage[†] | **90.8%** | 79.3% |
| **O** Late or no prenatal care received | **4.8%** | 6.2% |
| **R** Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)[†] | **6.2** | 5.7 |
| **R** Preterm births[†] | **10.0%** | 10.0% |
| **G** Preventive dental care received | **25.9%** | 33.0% |
| **R** Medical home[†] | **49.1%** | 51.0% |

*†This indicator is not factored into the GROW tier rankings.*
*Note: N/A indicates Not Available.*

# Strong Families

## How are Michigan'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 children and families of color face numerous challenges as a result of racism that impact their everyday life, which are exacerbated even more for children and families living in households with low income. 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.

Michigan falls in the Getting Started (G) 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 percentages of babies living in crowded housing and babies who have had two or more adverse experiences. Michigan is doing worse than the national average on indicators such as the percentage of parents who report being resilient and the rate of babies experiencing maltreatment.
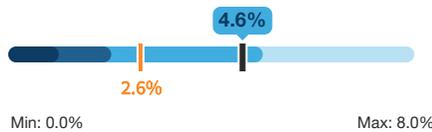
## Key Indicators of Strong Families
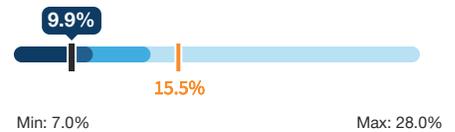
● Michigan    ● National Avg

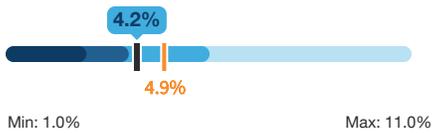### TANF benefits receipt among families in poverty

9.7%
21.7%
Min: 3.0%          Max: 88.0%

### Housing instability

4.6%
2.6%
Min: 0.0%          Max: 8.0%

### Crowded housing

9.9%
15.5%
Min: 7.0%          Max: 28.0%

### Unsafe neighborhoods

4.2%
4.9%
Min: 1.0%          Max: 11.0%

### Family resilience

80.8%
85.3%
Min: 80.0%          Max: 92.0%

### 1 adverse childhood experience

21.1%
20.7%
Min: 13.0%          Max: 28.0%

### 2+ adverse childhood experiences

6.1%
7.7%
Min: 2.0%          Max: 18.0%

### Infant/toddler maltreatment rate[†]

36.6
16.4
Min: 2.0          Max: 41.2
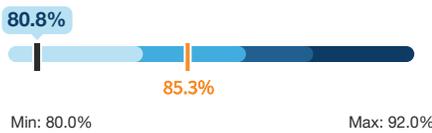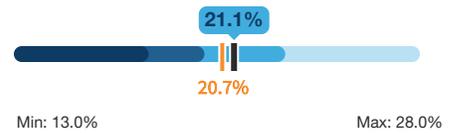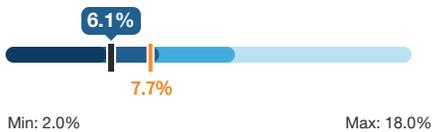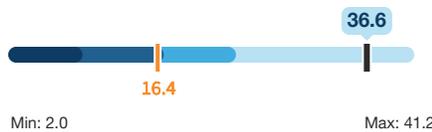
### Time in out-of-home placement[†]

9.9%
18.7%
Min: 4.0%          Max: 41.0%
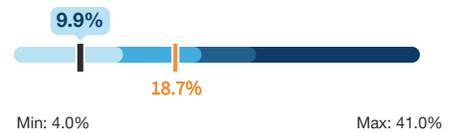
### Removed from home (per 1,000 infants/toddlers)[†]

6.1
7.1
Min: 2.5          Max: 24.6

# Strong Families

## Strong Families Policy in Michigan

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 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 (EITC)† | Yes | ✔ |

*†This indicator is not factored into the GROW tier rankings.*
*Note: N/A indicates Not Applicable*

## All Strong Families Indicators for Michigan

● State Indicator    ● National Avg

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **G** TANF benefits receipt among families in poverty | **9.7%** 21.7% | **R** Housing instability | **4.6%** 2.6% |
| **O** Crowded housing | **9.9%** 15.5% | **R** Unsafe neighborhoods | **4.2%** 4.9% |
| **G** Family resilience | **80.8%** 85.3% | **R** One adverse childhood experience | **21.1%** 20.7% |
| **W** Two or more adverse childhood experiences | **6.1%** 7.7% | Infant/toddler maltreatment rate† | **36.6** 16.4 |
| **G** Out of home placements† | **9.9%** 18.7% | Permanency Achieved: Reunified† | **48.5%** 48.1% |
| **R** Potential home visiting beneficiaries served | **2.2%** 2.0% | Permanency Achieved: Relative† | **N/A** 7.8% |
| Infants/toddlers exiting foster care to permanency† | **98.9%** 98.8% | Permanency Achieved: Guardian† | **2.8%** 8.3% |
| Removed from home† | **6.1** 7.1 | Permanency Achieved: Adoption† | **47.5%** 34.6% |

*†This indicator is not factored into the GROW tier rankings.*
*Note: N/A indicates Not Available.*

# Positive Early Learning Experiences

## How are Michigan's babies faring in Positive Early Learning Experiences?

Infants and toddlers learn through interactions with the significant adults in their lives and active exploration of enriching environments. The quality of infant and toddlers' 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.

Michigan scores in the Improving Outcomes (O) 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 higher percentage of parents who read to their child every day. Michigan is doing worse than the national average on indicators such as the lower percentage of infants and toddlers who received a developmental screening. Infant care costs as a percentage of the state's median income for single and married parents also contribute to the ranking.

## Key Indicators of Positive Early Learning Experiences
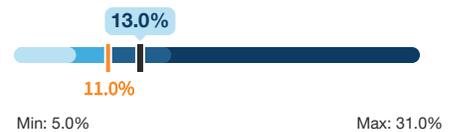
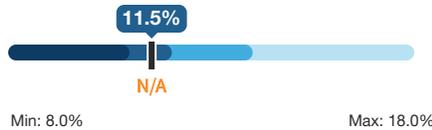● Michigan    ● National Avg

### Parent reads to baby every day

**41.9%**
37.2%
Min: 27.0%    Max: 58.0%

### Parent sings to baby every day

**59.6%**
57.4%
Min: 48.0%    Max: 72.0%

### Percentage of income-eligible infants/toddlers with Early Head Start access

**13.0%**
11.0%
Min: 5.0%    Max: 31.0%

### Cost of care, as % of income single parents

**44.3%**
N/A
Min: 29.0%    Max: 94.0%

### Cost of care, as % of income married families

**11.5%**
N/A
Min: 8.0%    Max: 18.0%

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

**4.5%**
4.2%
Min: 2.0%    Max: 10.0%

### Developmental screening received

**29.8%**
32.5%
Min: 21.0%    Max: 57.0%

### Percentage of infants/toddlers receiving IDEA Part C services

**6.6%**
6.8%
Min: 2.0%    Max: 19.0%

# Positive Early Learning Experiences

## Positive Early Learning Experiences Policy in Michigan

Infant eligibility level for child care subsidy above 200% of FPL ......................................................................... No ✗

Allocated CCDBG funds[†] ................................................................................................................................................ Yes ✔

Group size requirements meet or exceed EHS standards[†] .............................................................. 1 of 3 age groups

Adult/child ratio requirements meet or exceed EHS standards[†] ...................................................... 1 of 3 age groups

Level of teacher qualification required by the state[†] ....................................... No credential beyond a high school diploma

Infant/toddler credential adopted[†] ............................................................................................................................. No ✗

State reimburses center based child care at/above 75th percentile of market rates[†] ........................................... No ✗

State includes "at-risk" children as eligible for IDEA Part C services or reports that they serve "at-risk" children[†] ........... No ✗

*†This indicator is not factored into the GROW tier rankings.*
*Note: N/A indicates Not Applicable*

## All Positive Early Learning Experiences Indicators for Michigan
● State Indicator  ● National Avg

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Parent reads to baby every day | **41.9%** 37.2% | |
| Parent sings to baby every day | **59.6%** 57.4% | |
| Percentage of income-eligible infants/toddlers with Early Head Start access | **13.0%** 11.0% | |
| Cost of care, as % of income married families | **11.5%** N/A | |
| Cost of care, as % of income single parents | **44.3%** N/A | |
| Low/moderate income infants/toddlers in CCDF funded-care | **4.5%** 4.2% | |
| Developmental screening received | **29.8%** 32.5% | |
| Infants/toddlers with developmental delay[†] | **0.7%** 1.1% | |
| Percentage of infants/toddlers receiving IDEA Part C services | **6.6%** 6.8% | |
| Timeliness of Part C services[†] | **99.0%** N/A | |

*†This indicator is not factored into the GROW tier rankings.*
*Note: N/A indicates Not Available.*