

# The State of Texas's Babies G

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.

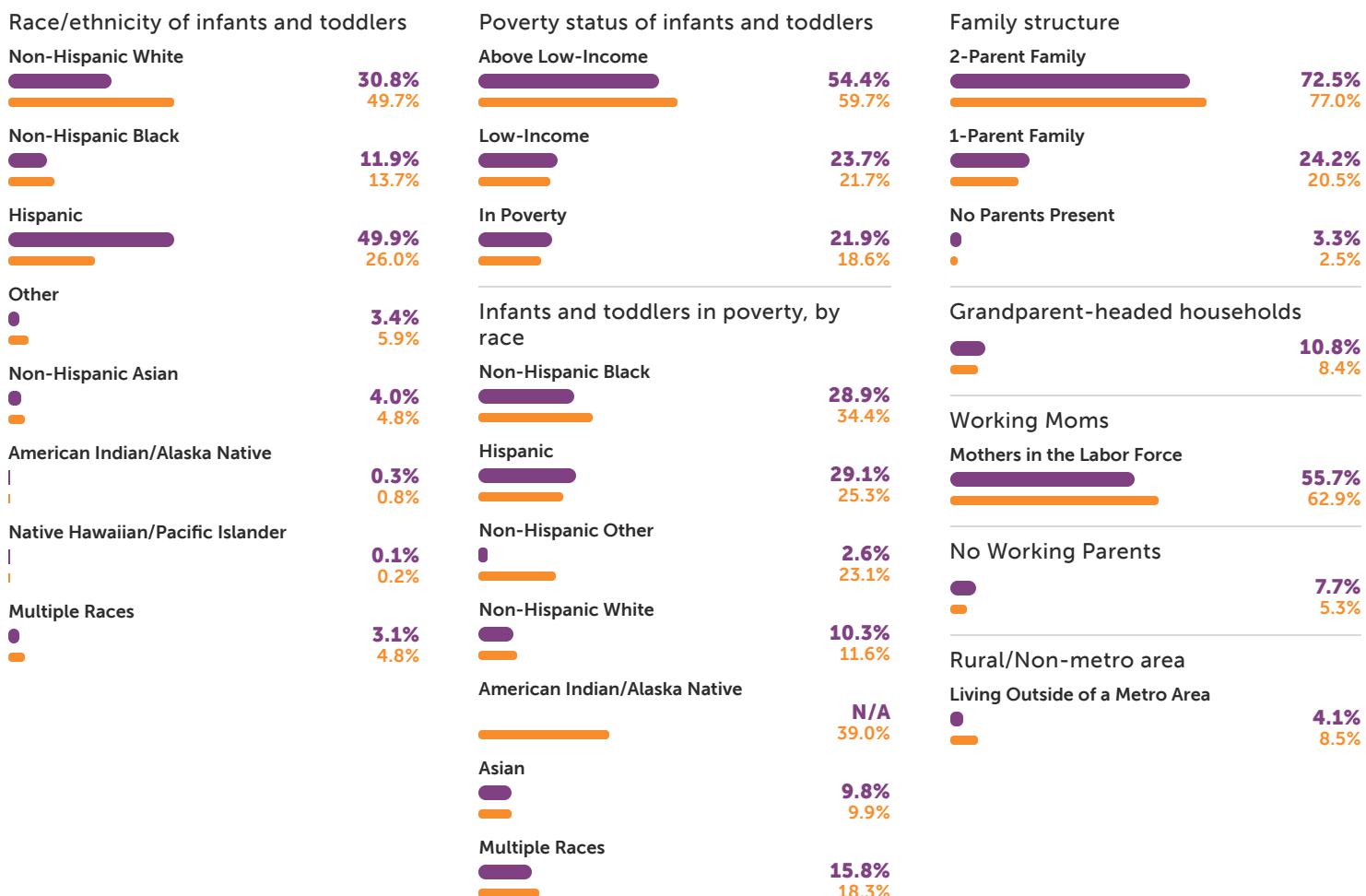
This state profile provides a snapshot of how infants, toddlers, and their families are faring in each of these three policy domains. Within each domain, view data for selected child, family, and policy indicators compared to national averages. The profile begins with a demographic description of the 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

### Infants and toddlers in Texas

Texas is home to 1,160,963 babies, representing 4.0 percent of the state's population. As many as 45.6 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.



Note: N/A indicates Not Available

# Good Health

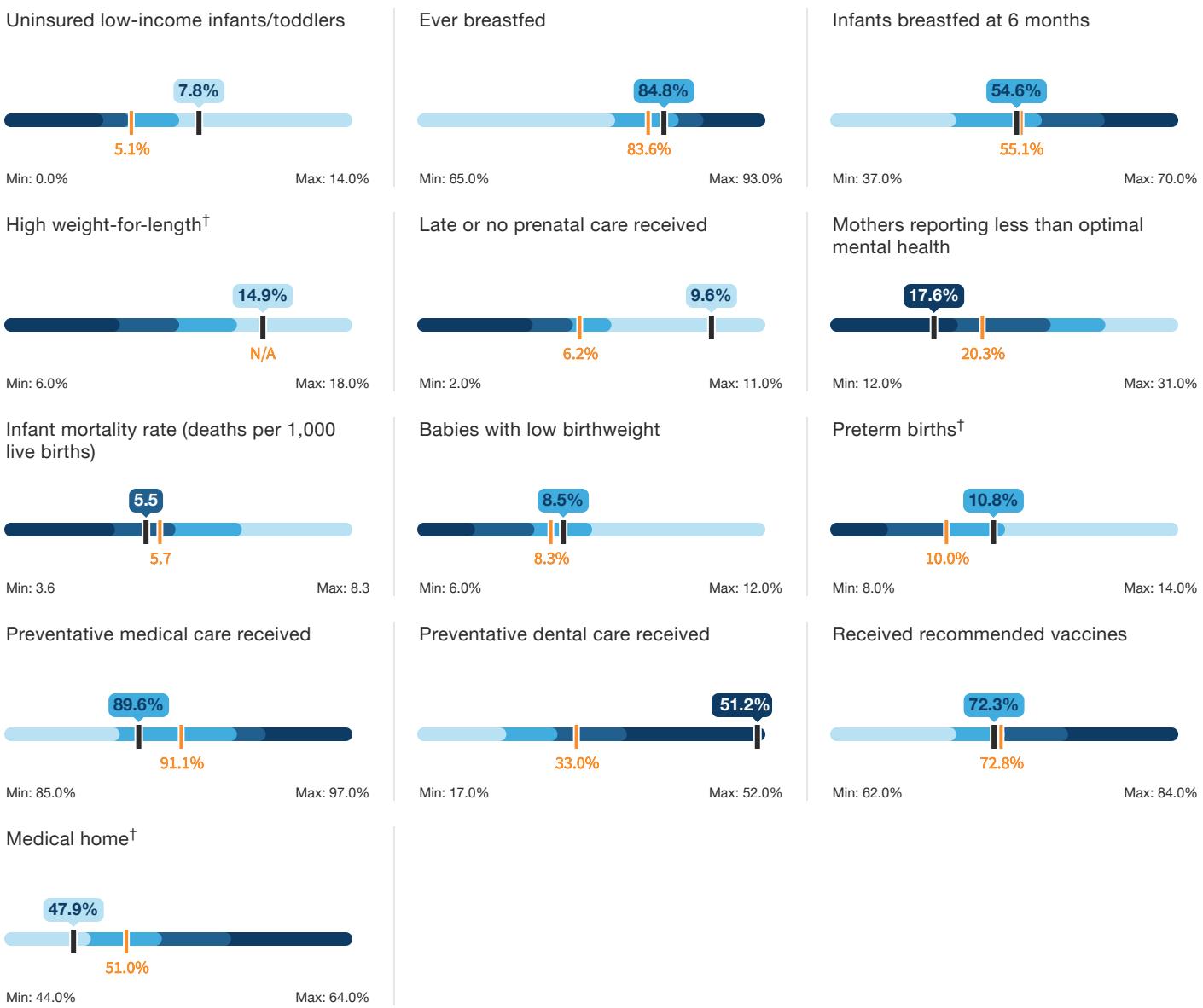


## How are Texas's babies faring in Good Health?

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.

Texas 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. Texas performs better than national averages on key indicators, such as the percentages of babies receiving preventive dental care and mothers reporting less than favorable mental health. The state is performing worse than national averages on indicators such as the percentages of uninsured babies in families with low income and women receiving late or no prenatal care.

## Key Indicators of Good Health



# Good Health

## Good Health Policy in Texas

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 in early childhood education settings	No
Pregnant workers protection†	State employees only
Postpartum extension of Medicaid coverage†	Law covering either some women but not all, or all women but for less than 1 year

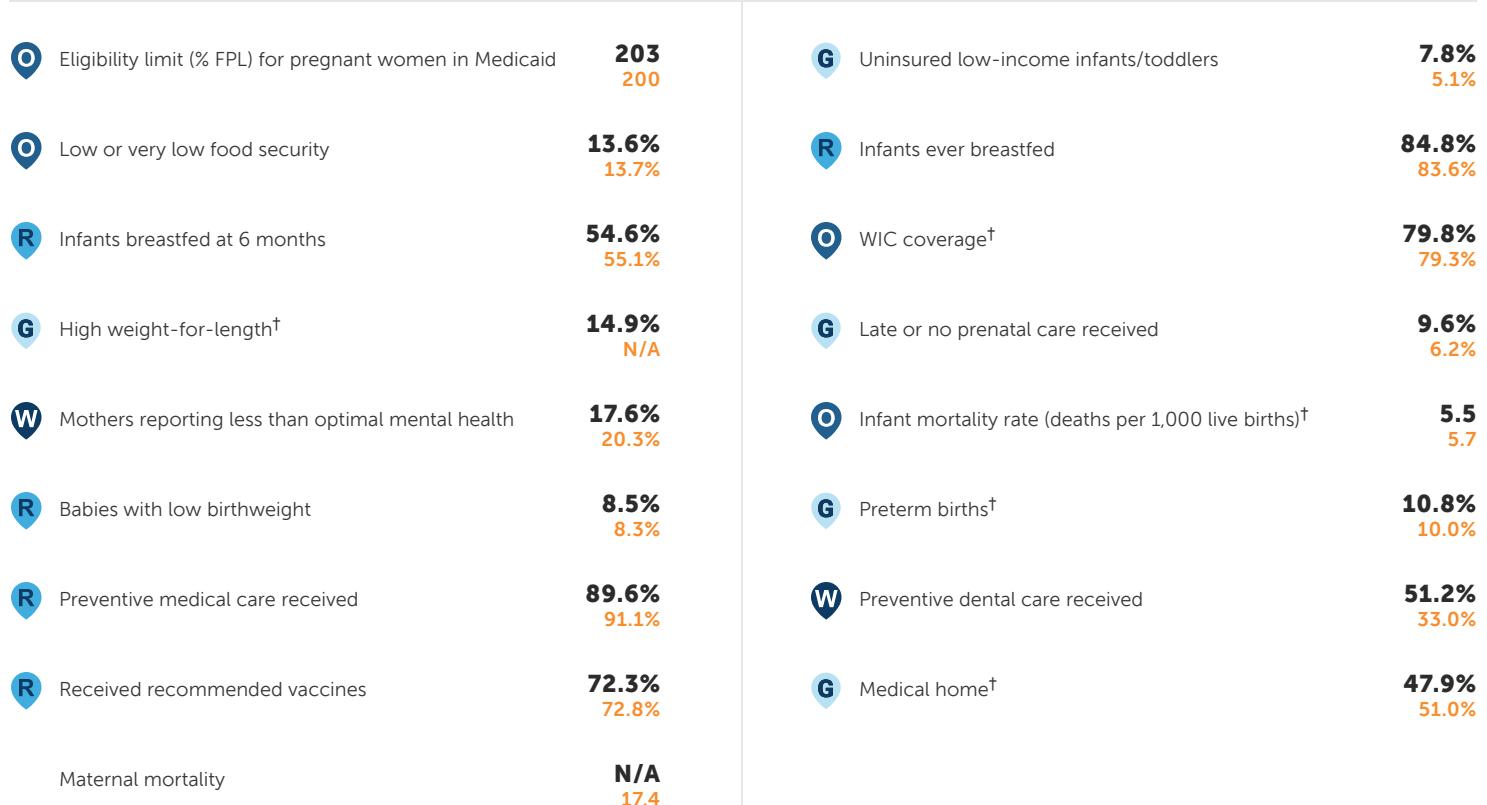
†This indicator is not factored into the GROW tier rankings.

Note: N/A indicates Not Applicable

## All Good Health Indicators for Texas

State Indicator

National Avg



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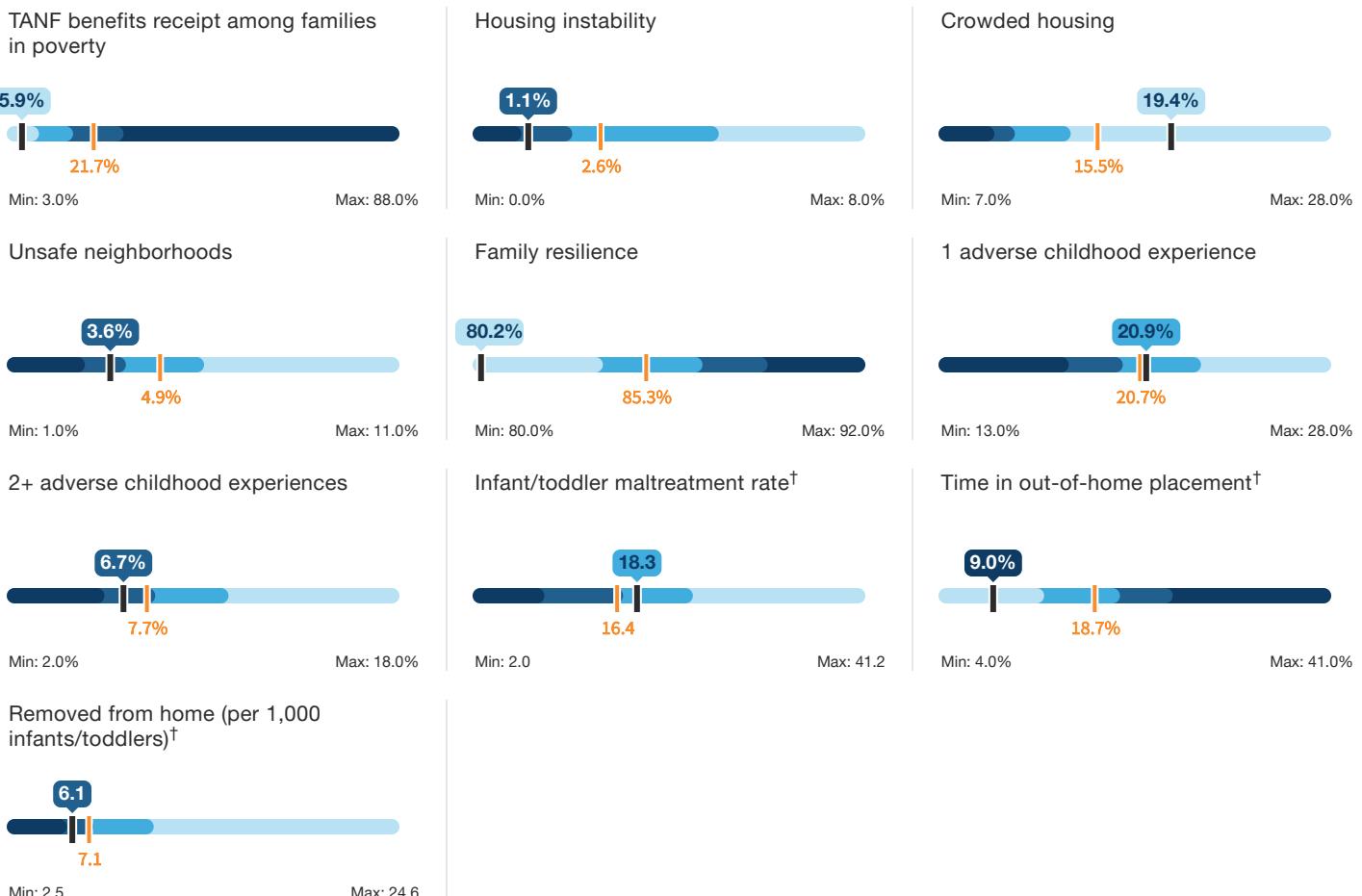
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# Strong Families

## How are Texas'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.

## Key Indicators of Strong Families



Texas 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 experiencing housing insecurity (moved 3 or more times) and parents who report living in unsafe neighborhoods. Texas is doing worse than the national average on indicators such as the percentages of families who report being resilient and babies living in crowded housing.

# Strong Families

## Strong Families Policy in Texas

Paid family leave		No
Paid sick time that covers care for child		No
TANF Work Exemption <sup>†</sup>		Yes
State Child Tax Credit <sup>†</sup>		No
State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) <sup>†</sup>		No

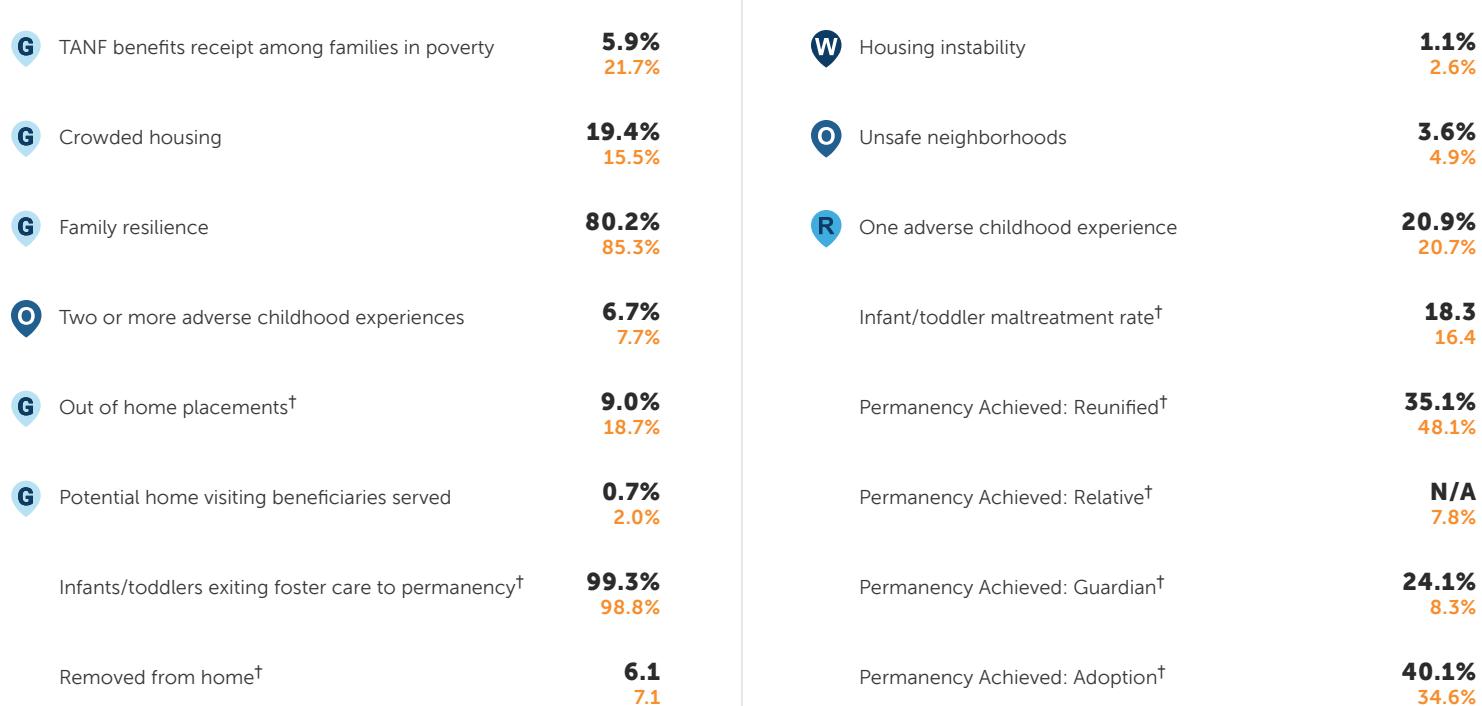
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## All Strong Families Indicators for Texas

State Indicator

National Avg



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# Positive Early Learning Experiences

G R O W

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

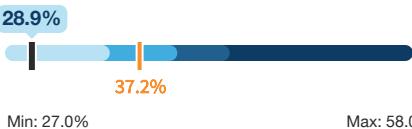
Infants and toddlers learn through interactions with the significant adults in their lives and active exploration of enriching environments. The quality of infant and toddlers' early learning experiences at home and in other care settings can impact their cognitive and social-emotional development, as 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.

Texas scores in the Getting Started (G) 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 infants and toddlers who received a developmental screening. Texas is doing worse than the national average on indicators such as the lower percentage of parents who report singing songs or telling stories to their infants and toddlers every day. Infant care costs as a percentage of the state's median income for single and married parents also contribute to the ranking.

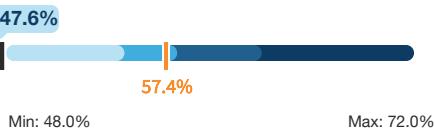
## Key Indicators of Positive Early Learning Experiences

● Texas    ● National Avg

Parent reads to baby every day



Parent sings to baby every day



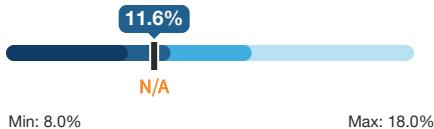
Percentage of income-eligible infants/toddlers with Early Head Start access



Cost of care, as % of income single parents



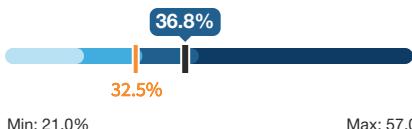
Cost of care, as % of income married families



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



Developmental screening received



Percentage of infants/toddlers receiving IDEA Part C services



# Positive Early Learning Experiences

## Positive Early Learning Experiences Policy in Texas

Infant eligibility level for child care subsidy above 200% of FPL	No <span style="color: red;">✗</span>
Allocated CCDBG funds <sup>†</sup>	Yes <span style="color: green;">✓</span>
Group size requirements meet or exceed EHS standards <sup>†</sup>	2 of 3 age groups
Adult/child ratio requirements meet or exceed EHS standards <sup>†</sup>	2 of 3 age groups
Level of teacher qualification required by the state <sup>†</sup>	No credential beyond a high school diploma
Infant/toddler credential adopted <sup>†</sup>	Yes <span style="color: green;">✓</span>
State reimburses center based child care at/above 75th percentile of market rates <sup>†</sup>	No <span style="color: red;">✗</span>
State includes "at-risk" children as eligible for IDEA Part C services or reports that they serve "at-risk" children <sup>†</sup>	No <span style="color: red;">✗</span>

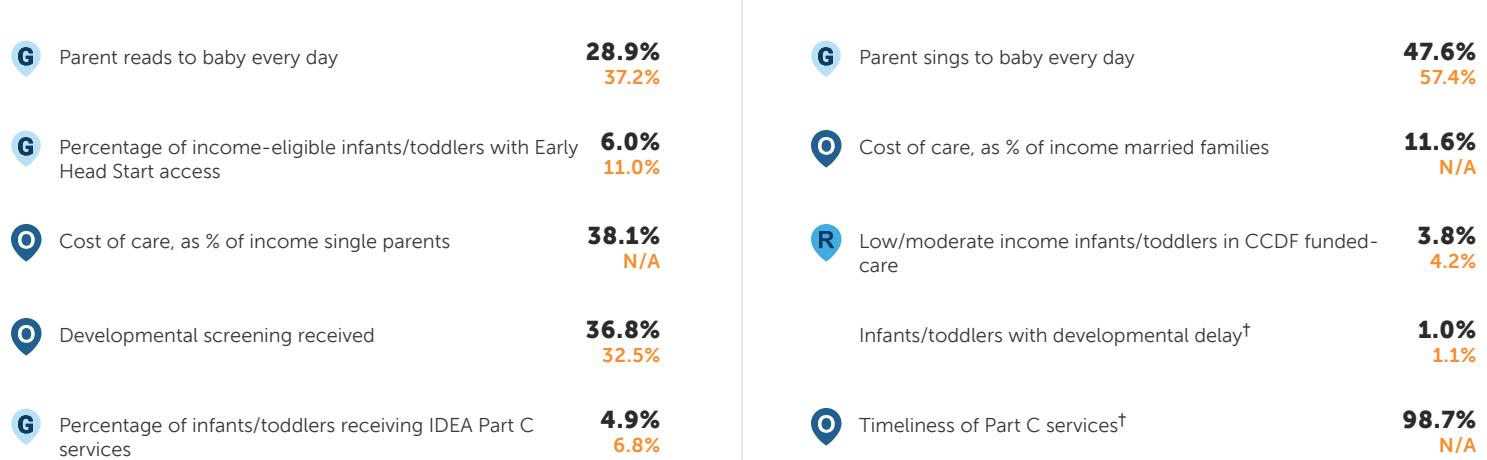
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## All Positive Early Learning Experiences Indicators for Texas

● State Indicator

● National Avg



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