

The State of Arizona'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.

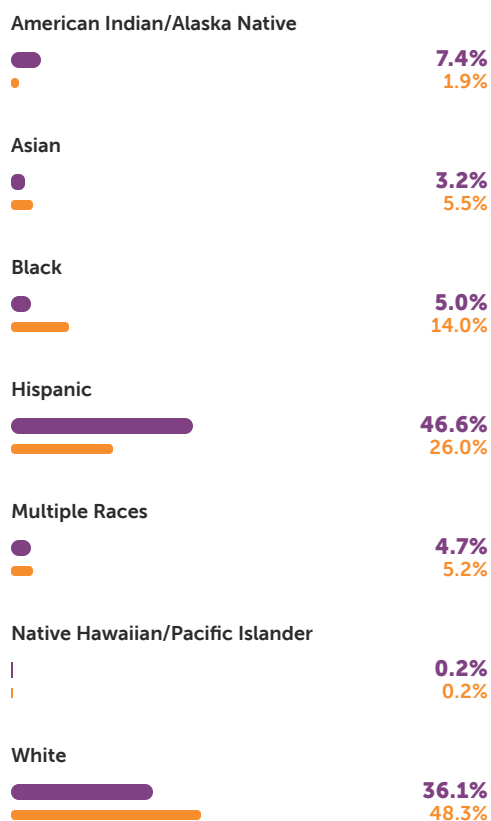
Demographics

Arizona National Average

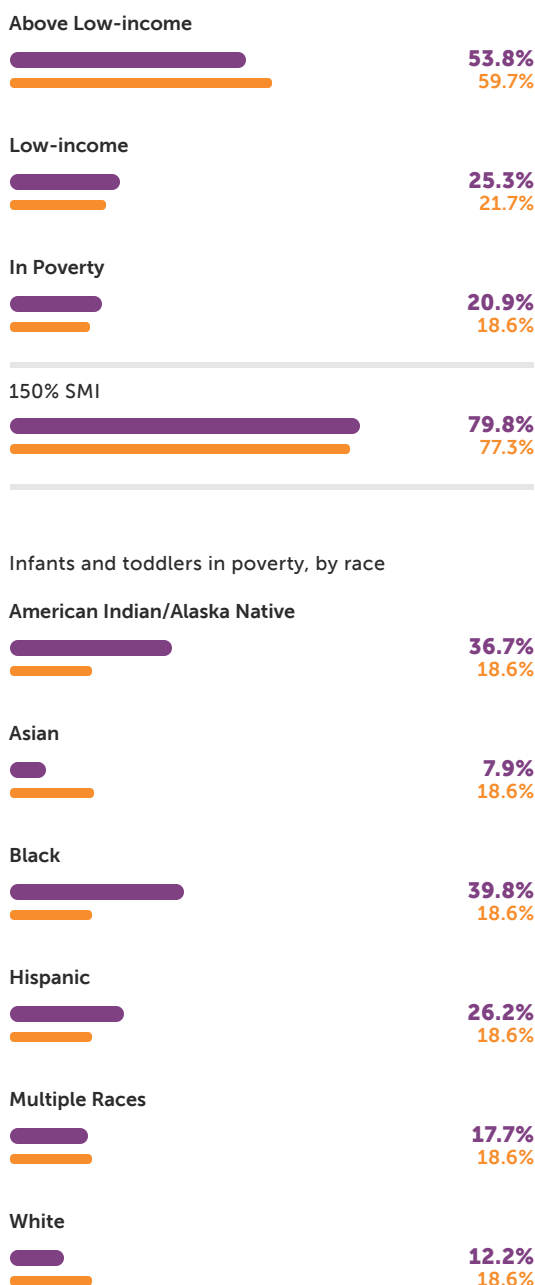
Infants and toddlers in Arizona

Arizona is home to 248,377 babies, representing 3.3 percent of the state's population. As many as 46.2 percent live in households with incomes less than twice the federal poverty line (in 2020, about \$52,400 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.

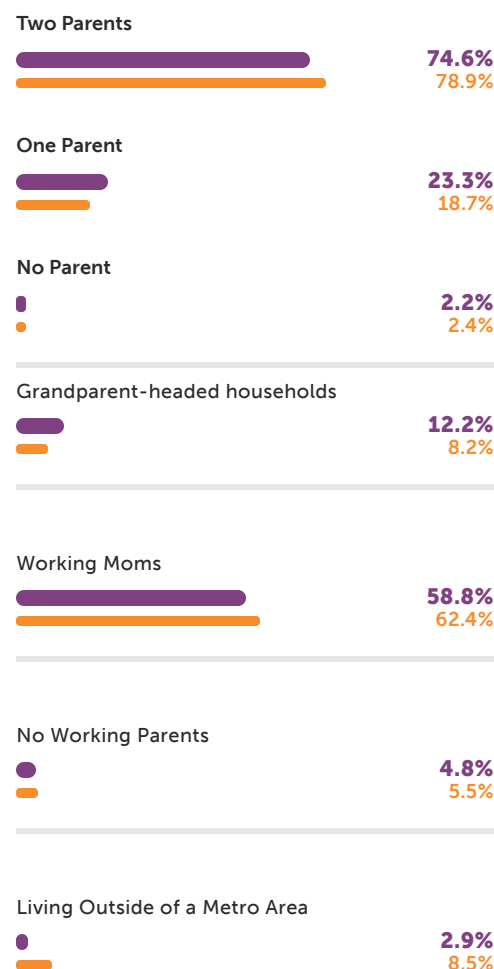
Race/ethnicity of infants and toddlers



Poverty status of infants and toddlers



Family Structure



Percent Infant Toddler



3.3%
3.4%

Population Infant Toddler



248,377
11,361,919

**Numbers are small; use caution in interpreting.*

Note: N/A indicates Not Available

How are Arizona'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.

Arizona 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 nutrition and mental health. Arizona performs better than national averages on key indicators, such as the percentages of babies ever breastfed and babies receiving preventive dental care. The state is performing worse than national averages on indicators such as the Medicaid income eligibility level for pregnant women and the percentage of eligible babies participating in WIC.

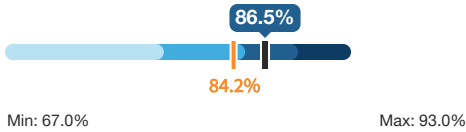
Key Indicators of Good Health

● Arizona ● National Avg

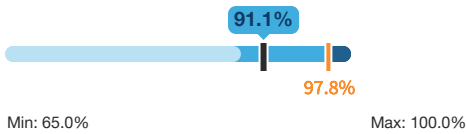
Eligibility limit (% FPL) for pregnant women in Medicaid



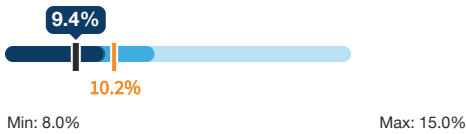
Infants ever breastfed **NR**



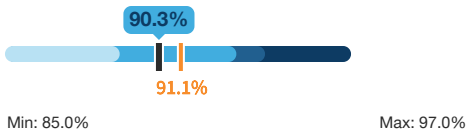
WIC Coverage



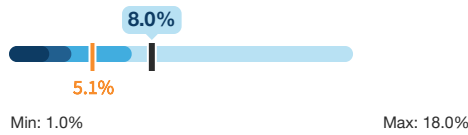
Babies born preterm



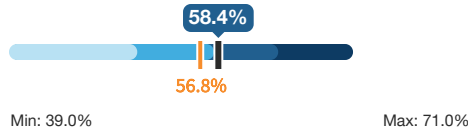
Preventive medical care received



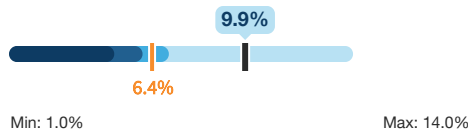
Uninsured low-income infants and toddlers



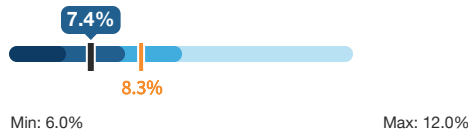
Infants breastfed at 6 months **NR**



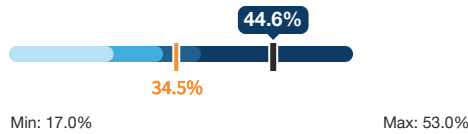
Late or no prenatal care received



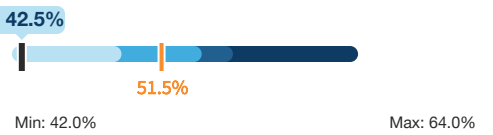
Babies with low birthweight



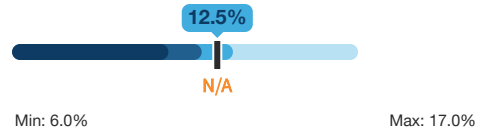
Preventive dental care received



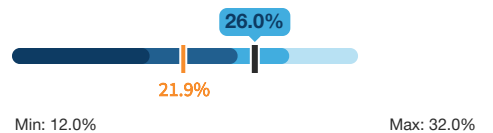
Medical home



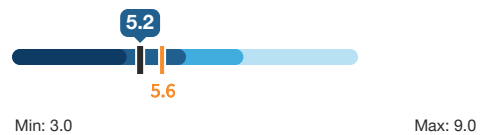
High weight-for-length **NR**



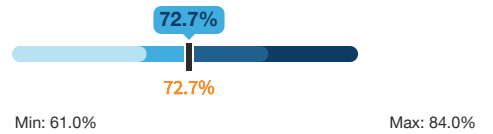
Mothers reporting less than optimal mental health



Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)



Received recommended vaccines



*Numbers are small; use caution in interpreting.

Good Health Policy in Arizona

Medicaid expansion state	Yes ✓
CHIP maternal coverage for unborn child option	NR No ✗
Postpartum extension of Medicaid coverage	No law beyond mandatory 60 days
Pregnant workers protection	No protections
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 in early childhood education settings	Yes ✓

Note: N/A indicates Not Available

All Good Health Indicators for Arizona

● State Indicator ● National Avg

Health Care Coverage and Affordability

G Eligibility limit (% FPL) for pregnant women in Medicaid	161.0 200.0	G Uninsured low-income infants and toddlers	8.0% 5.1%
G Medical home	42.5% 51.5%		

Nutrition

Infants ever breastfed	NR	86.5% 84.2%	O Infants breastfed at 6 months	58.4% 56.8%
High weight-for-length	NR	12.5% NA	R WIC coverage	91.1% 97.8%

Maternal Health

G Late or no prenatal care received	9.9% 6.4%	Maternal mortality rate (deaths per 100,000 live births)	NR	NA 20.1
R Mothers reporting less than optimal mental health	26.0% 21.9%			

Children's Health

W Babies born preterm	9.4% 10.2%	O Babies with low birthweight	7.4% 8.3%
O Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	5.2 5.6	W Preventive dental care received	44.6% 34.5%
R Preventive medical care received	90.3% 91.1%	R Received recommended vaccines	72.7% 72.7%

Note: N/A indicates Not Available.

How are Arizona'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 families with low income and in historically marginalized communities of color face additional challenges that impact their babies' immediate and future well-being. 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.

Arizona 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 who have had one adverse experience and babies who could benefit from home visiting receiving those services. Arizona is doing worse than the national average on indicators such as the percentages of babies who experience food insecurity and babies who have had two or more adverse experiences.

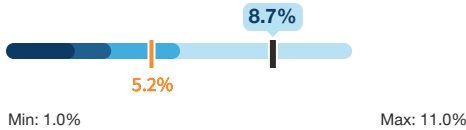
Key Indicators of Strong Families

● Arizona ● National Avg

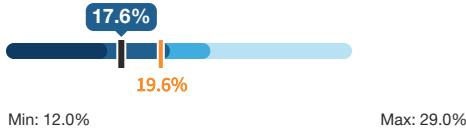
TANF benefits receipt among families in poverty



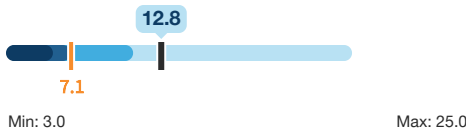
Unsafe neighborhoods



1 adverse childhood experience



Removed from home **NR**



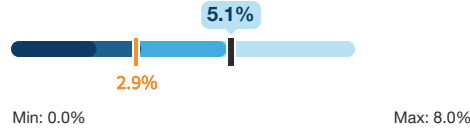
Permanency: Guardian **NR**



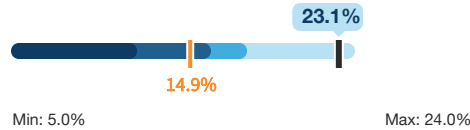
Potential home visiting beneficiaries served



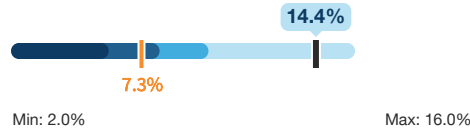
Housing instability



Low or very low food security



2 or more adverse childhood experiences



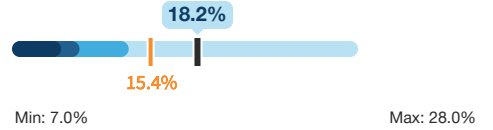
Time in out-of-home placement



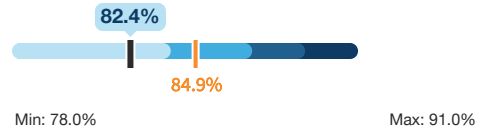
Permanency: Relative **NR**



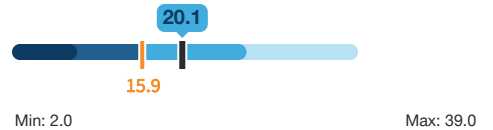
Crowded housing



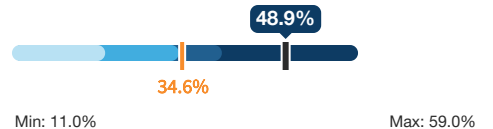
Family resilience



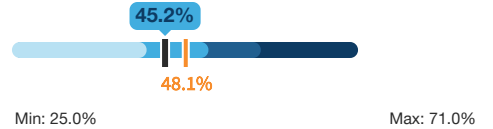
Infant/toddler maltreatment rate (per 1,000 children ages 0-2) **NR**



Permanency: Adopted **NR**



Permanency: Reunified **NR**



*Numbers are small; use caution in interpreting.

Strong Families Policy in Arizona

Paid family leave	No
Paid sick time that covers care for child	No
TANF work exemption	Yes
State child tax credit	No
State Earned Income Tax Credit	No

Note: N/A indicates Not Available

All Strong Families Indicators for Arizona

State Indicator National Avg

Basic Needs

TANF benefits receipt among families in poverty	5.9% 18.5%	Housing instability	5.1% 2.9%
Crowded housing	18.2% 15.4%	Unsafe neighborhoods	8.7% 5.2%
Low or very low food security	23.1% 14.9%		

Child Well-being and Resilience

Family resilience	82.4% 84.9%	1 adverse childhood experience	17.6% 19.6%
2 or more adverse childhood experiences	14.4% 7.3%	Infant/toddler maltreatment rate (per 1,000 children ages 0-2)	20.1 15.9
Removed from home	12.8 7.1	Time in out-of-home placement	0.2% %
Permanency: Adopted	48.9% 34.6%	Permanency: Guardian	2.7% 8.3%
Permanency: Relative	NA 7.8%	Permanency: Reunified	45.2% 48.1%
Potential home visiting beneficiaries served	2.6% 2.1%		

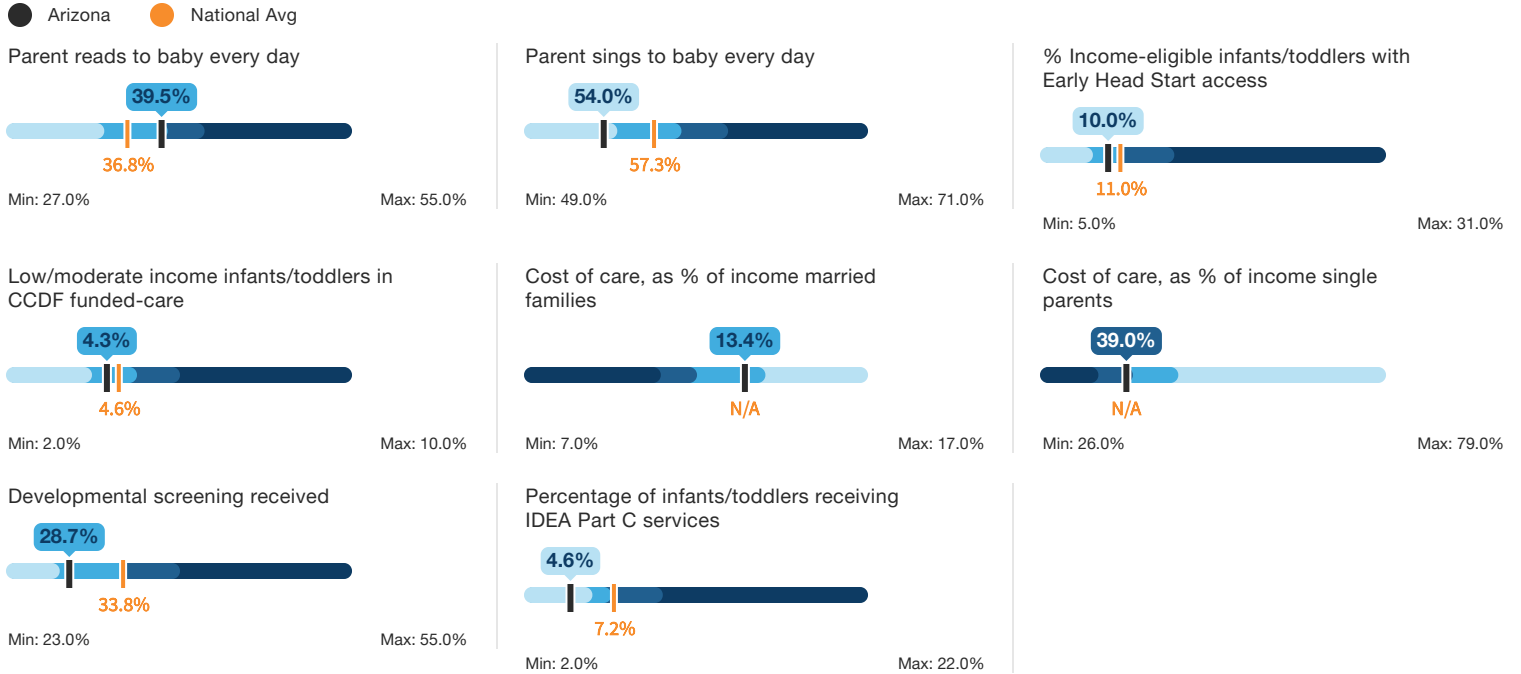
Note: N/A indicates Not Available.

How are Arizona'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 babies' 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.

Arizona 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 parents who read to their babies daily. Arizona is doing worse than the national average on indicators such as the lower percentage of infants and toddlers who received a developmental screening. Beginning with the 2022 profile, infant care costs as a percentage of the state's median income for single and married parents are not factored into the ranking.

Key Indicators of Positive Early Learning Experiences



*Numbers are small; use caution in interpreting.

Positive Early Learning Experiences Policy in Arizona

Adult/child ratio	_____	EHS Standards met for 0 of 3 age groups
Level of teacher qualification required by the state beyond a high school diploma	_____	No ✗
Group size	_____	EHS Standards met for 1 of 3 age groups
Infant/toddler professional credential	NR _____	No ✗
Families above 200% of FPL eligible for child care subsidy	_____	No ✗
Allocated CCDBG funds	_____	No ✗
State reimburses center-based child care	_____	No ✗
At-risk children included in Part C eligibility definition	NR _____	No ✗

Note: N/A indicates Not Available

All Positive Early Learning Experiences Indicators for Arizona

● State Indicator

● National Avg

Activities that Support Early Learning

R Parent reads to baby every day	39.5% 36.8%	G Parent sings to baby every day	54.0% 57.3%
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Access to Early Learning Programs

R % Income-eligible infants/toddlers with Early Head Start access	10.0% 11.0%	R Low/moderate income infants/toddlers in CCDF-funded care	4.3% 4.6%
Cost of care, as % of income married families NR	13.4% NA	Cost of care, as % of income single parents NR	39.0% NA

Early Intervention

R Developmental screening received	28.7% 33.8%	G Percentage of infants/toddlers receiving IDEA Part C services	4.6% 7.2%
Timeliness of Part C services NR	98.3% NA		

Note: N/A indicates Not Available.