

The State of Indiana's Babies R

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.

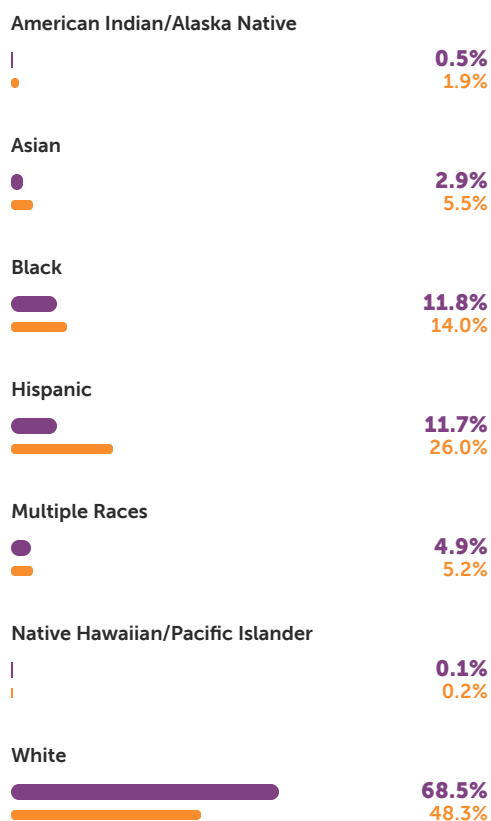
Demographics

■ Indiana ■ National Average

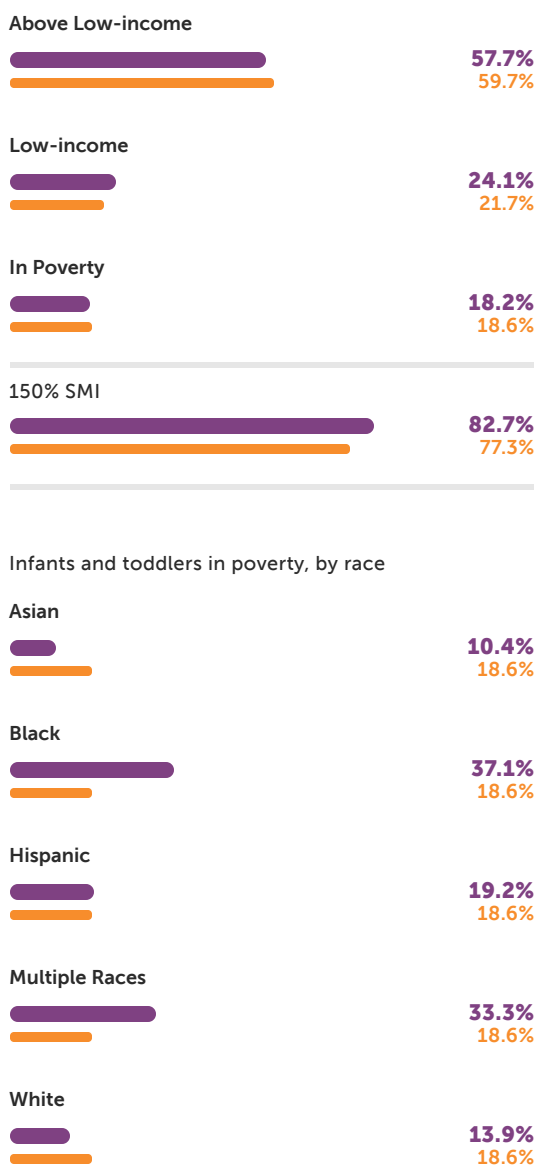
Infants and toddlers in Indiana

Indiana is home to 245,727 babies, representing 3.6 percent of the state's population. As many as 42.3 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.

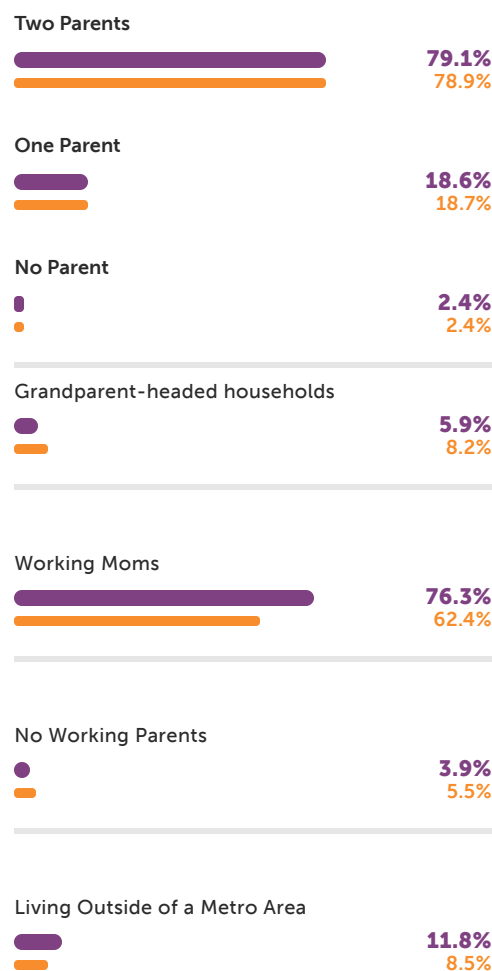
Race/ethnicity of infants and toddlers



Poverty status of infants and toddlers



Family Structure



Percent Infant Toddler



Population Infant Toddler



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

Note: N/A indicates Not Available

How are Indiana'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.

Indiana 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. Indiana performs better than national average on a key indicator, the Medicaid income eligibility level for pregnant women. The state is performing worse than national averages on indicators such as the infant mortality rate and percentage of mothers reporting less than favorable mental health.

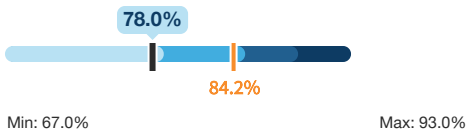
Key Indicators of Good Health

● Indiana ● National Avg

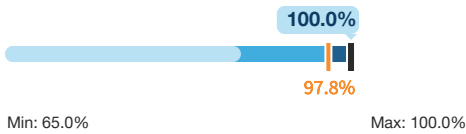
Eligibility limit (% FPL) for pregnant women in Medicaid



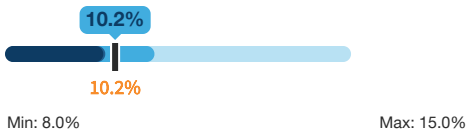
Infants ever breastfed **NR**



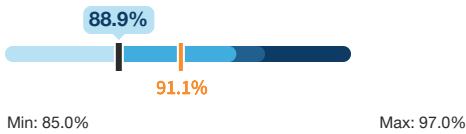
WIC Coverage



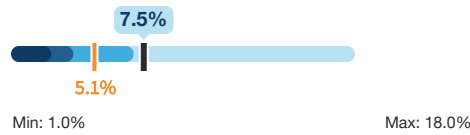
Babies born preterm



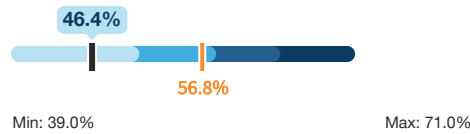
Preventive medical care received



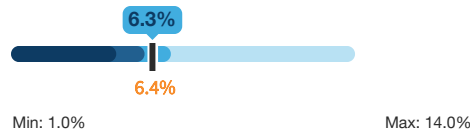
Uninsured low-income infants and toddlers



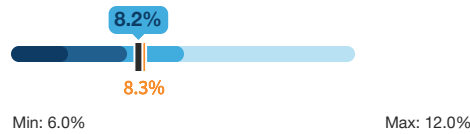
Infants breastfed at 6 months **NR**



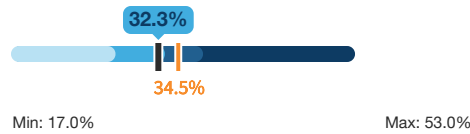
Late or no prenatal care received



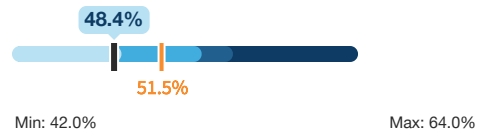
Babies with low birthweight



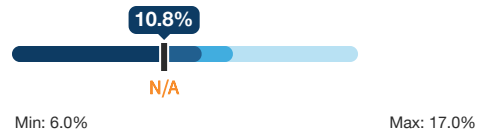
Preventive dental care received



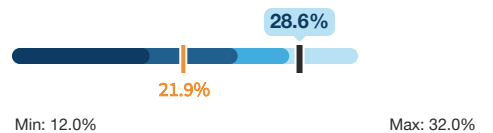
Medical home



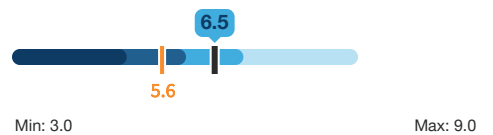
High weight-for-length **NR**



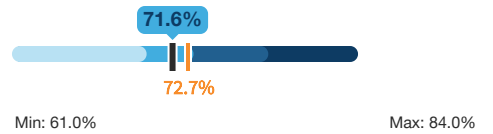
Mothers reporting less than optimal mental health



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



Received recommended vaccines



*Numbers are small; use caution in interpreting.

Good Health Policy in Indiana

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	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 ✗

Note: N/A indicates Not Available

All Good Health Indicators for Indiana

● State Indicator ● National Avg

Health Care Coverage and Affordability

O Eligibility limit (% FPL) for pregnant women in Medicaid	213.0 200.0	G Uninsured low-income infants and toddlers	7.5% 5.1%
G Medical home	48.4% 51.5%		

Nutrition

Infants ever breastfed NR	78.0% 84.2%	G Infants breastfed at 6 months	46.4% 56.8%
High weight-for-length NR	10.8% NA	O WIC coverage	100.0% 97.8%

Maternal Health

R Late or no prenatal care received	6.3% 6.4%	Maternal mortality rate (deaths per 100,000 live births) NR	NA 20.1
G Mothers reporting less than optimal mental health	28.6% 21.9%		

Children's Health

R Babies born preterm	10.2% 10.2%	O Babies with low birthweight	8.2% 8.3%
R Infant mortality rate (deaths per 1,000 live births)	6.5 5.6	R Preventive dental care received	32.3% 34.5%
G Preventive medical care received	88.9% 91.1%	R Received recommended vaccines	71.6% 72.7%

Note: N/A indicates Not Available.

How are Indiana'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.

Indiana falls in the Improving Outcomes (O) 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 families who could benefit from home visiting being served. Indiana is doing worse than the national average on indicators such as the percentage of families in poverty with babies who receive TANF and the infant/toddler maltreatment rate.

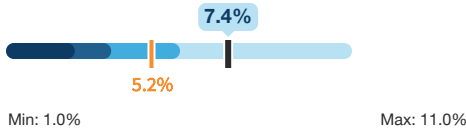
Key Indicators of Strong Families

● Indiana ● National Avg

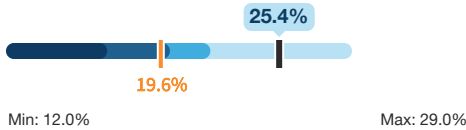
TANF benefits receipt among families in poverty



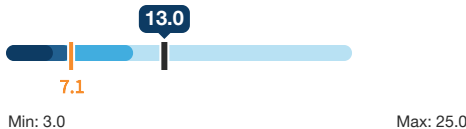
Unsafe neighborhoods



1 adverse childhood experience



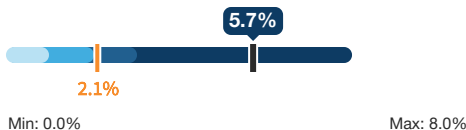
Removed from home **NR**



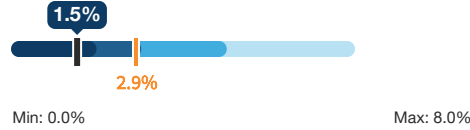
Permanency: Guardian **NR**



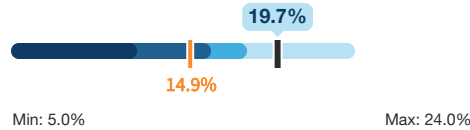
Potential home visiting beneficiaries served



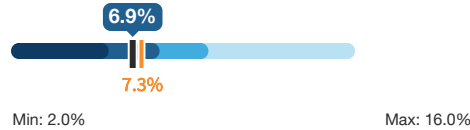
Housing instability



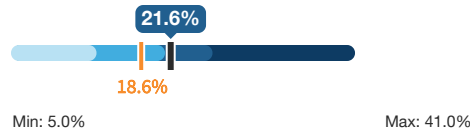
Low or very low food security



2 or more adverse childhood experiences



Time in out-of-home placement



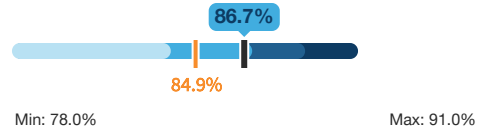
Permanency: Relative **NR**



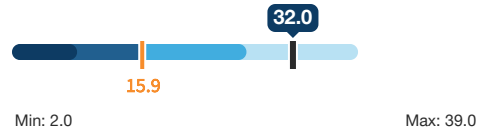
Crowded housing



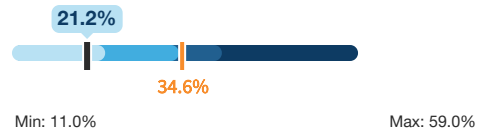
Family resilience



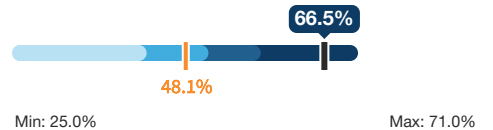
Infant/toddler maltreatment rate (per 1,000 children ages 0-2) **NR**



Permanency: Adopted **NR**



Permanency: Reunified **NR**



*Numbers are small; use caution in interpreting.

Strong Families Policy in Indiana

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

Note: N/A indicates Not Available

All Strong Families Indicators for Indiana

● State Indicator ● National Avg

Basic Needs

G TANF benefits receipt among families in poverty	3.7% 18.5%	O Housing instability	1.5% 2.9%
O Crowded housing	10.3% 15.4%	G Unsafe neighborhoods	7.4% 5.2%
G Low or very low food security	19.7% 14.9%		

Child Well-being and Resilience

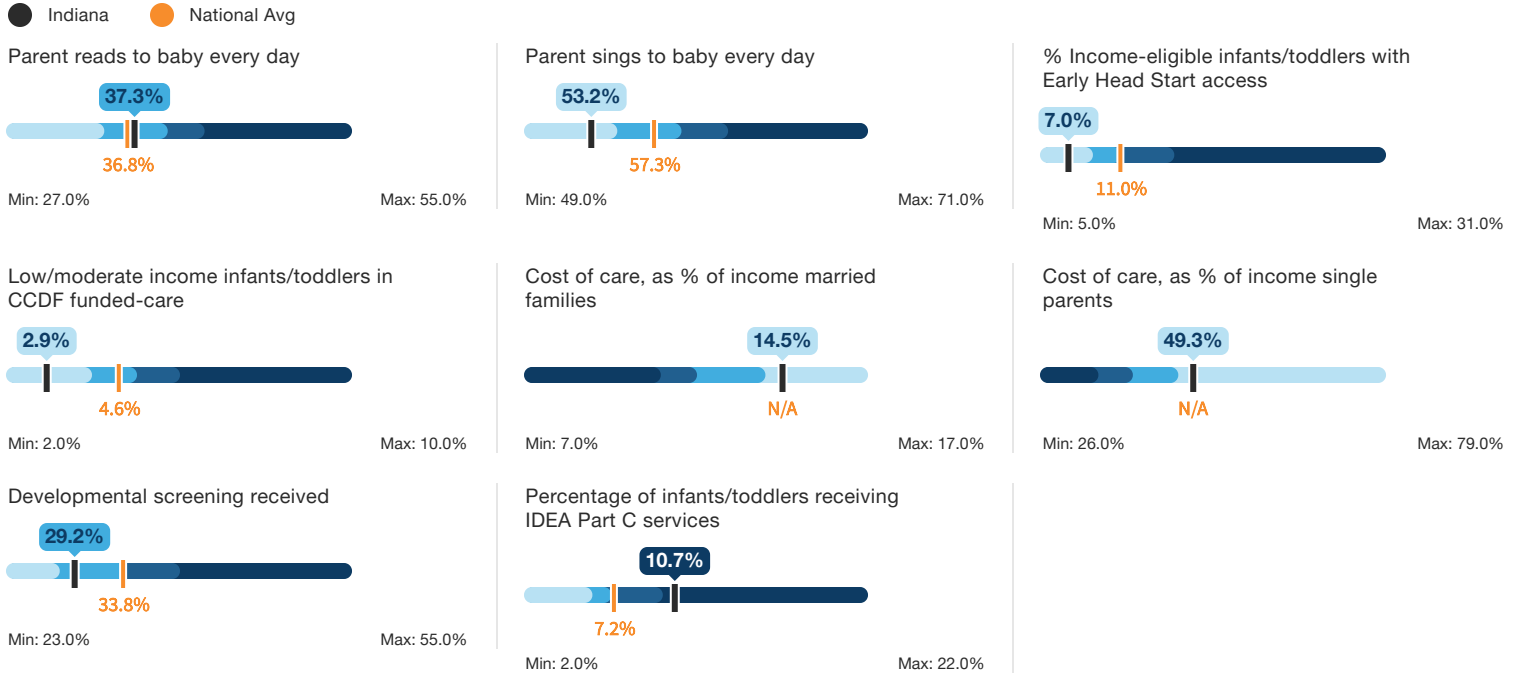
R Family resilience	86.7% 84.9%	1 adverse childhood experience NR	25.4% 19.6%
O 2 or more adverse childhood experiences	6.9% 7.3%	Infant/toddler maltreatment rate (per 1,000 children ages 0-2)	NR 32.0 15.9
Removed from home NR	13.0 7.1	Time in out-of-home placement NR	0.2% %
Permanency: Adopted NR	21.2% 34.6%	Permanency: Guardian NR	9.6% 8.3%
Permanency: Relative NR	2.4% 7.8%	Permanency: Reunified NR	66.5% 48.1%
W Potential home visiting beneficiaries served	5.7% 2.1%		

How are Indiana'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.

Indiana scores in the Reaching Forward (R) 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 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Part C services. Indiana is doing worse than the national average on indicators such as the lower percentage of babies in families below 100 percent of the federal poverty line with access to Early Head Start. 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 Indiana

Adult/child ratio	_____	EHS Standards met for 1 of 3 age groups
Level of teacher qualification required by the state beyond a high school diploma	_____	Yes ✓
Group size	_____	EHS Standards met for 1 of 3 age groups
Infant/toddler professional credential	NR _____	Yes ✓
Families above 200% of FPL eligible for child care subsidy	_____	No ✗
Allocated CCDBG funds	_____	Yes ✓
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 Indiana

● State Indicator

● National Avg

Activities that Support Early Learning

R Parent reads to baby every day	37.3% 36.8%	G Parent sings to baby every day	53.2% 57.3%
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Access to Early Learning Programs

G % Income-eligible infants/toddlers with Early Head Start access	7.0% 11.0%	G Low/moderate income infants/toddlers in CCDF-funded care	2.9% 4.6%
Cost of care, as % of income married families NR	14.5% NA	Cost of care, as % of income single parents NR	49.3% NA

Early Intervention

R Developmental screening received	29.2% 33.8%	W Percentage of infants/toddlers receiving IDEA Part C services	10.7% 7.2%
Timeliness of Part C services NR	84.3% NA		

Note: N/A indicates Not Available.