

Puerto Rico'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 new profile provides a brief summary description of the demographics of Puerto Rico's infants and toddlers; and a snapshot of how they and their families are faring in each of the three policy domains wherever the data are available in the Yearbook's sources. Within each domain, view data for the available child and family indicators compared to U.S. national averages. Although currently limited data are available for Puerto Rico's profile, the indicators of well-being and policies offer context for exploring what may be very different experiences of the territory's youngest children; and highlight the need for better data collection and reporting on all of America's babies and families.

Demographics

 Puerto Rico  National Average

Puerto Rico is home to 3.2 million babies, representing 1.9 percent of the territory's population.^a As many as 84.2 percent live in households with incomes less than 150 percent of the territory's median income for a family of four, compared to the national average of 77.3 percent.

Race and Ethnicity

The vast majority of families in Puerto Rico, including those with infants and toddlers, identify as Hispanic.^b Although Hispanic ethnicity can apply to individuals of any race, the percentage of non-Hispanic families is too small to reliably report. Therefore, it is important to note that where indicator findings are presented by race and ethnicity in this profile, subgroup data are provided for Hispanic babies and families only.

Good Health

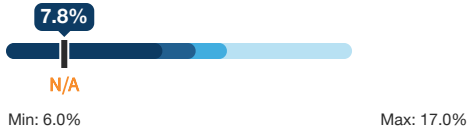
Key Indicators of Good Health

● Puerto Rico ● National Avg

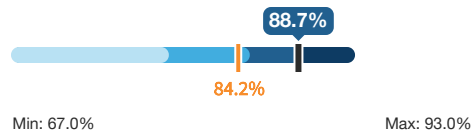
Uninsured low-income infants and toddlers



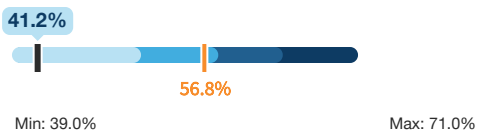
High weight-for-length **NR**



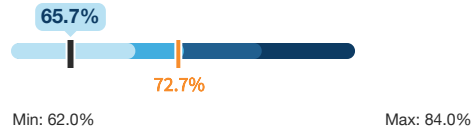
Infants ever breastfed **NR**



Infants breastfed at 6 months **NR**



Received recommended vaccines



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

Good Health Policies Where Data are Not Available for Puerto Rico

Medicaid expansion state		NA
CHIP maternal coverage for unborn child option	NR	NA
Postpartum extension of Medicaid coverage		NA
Pregnant workers protection		NA
State Medicaid policy for maternal depression screening in well-child visits		NA
Medicaid plan covers social-emotional screening for young children		NA
Medicaid plan covers IECMH services at home		NA
Medicaid plan covers IECMH services at pediatric/family medicine practices		NA
Medicaid plan covers IECMH services in early childhood education settings		NA

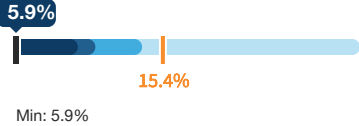
Note: N/A indicates Not Available

Strong Families

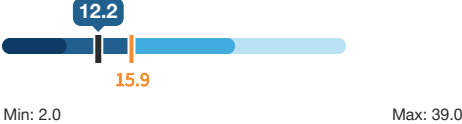
Key Indicators of Strong Families

● Puerto Rico ● National Avg

Crowded housing



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



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

Strong Families Policies Where Data are Not Available for Puerto Rico

Paid family leave	_____	NA
TANF work exemption	_____	NA
State child tax credit	_____	NA
State Earned Income Tax Credit	_____	NA

Note: N/A indicates Not Available

Positive Early Learning Experiences

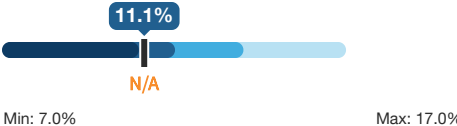
Key Indicators of Positive Early Learning Experiences

● Puerto Rico ● National Avg

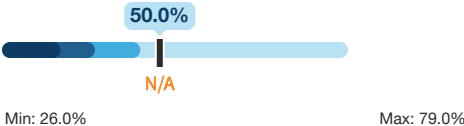
% Income-eligible infants/toddlers with Early Head Start access



Cost of care, as % of income married families



Cost of care, as % of income single parents



Positive Early Learning Experiences Policies Where Data are Not Available for Puerto Rico

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

Note: N/A indicates Not Available

a. Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. Census Population Estimate for 2020. Index of /programs-surveys/popest/datasets/2010-2020/state/totals and U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division. Census Vintage Population Estimates for 2020. <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/popest/technical-documentation/research/evaluation-estimates/2020-evaluation-estimates/2010s-detail-puerto-rico.html>

b. Source: Census Bureau, 2021, Quick Facts: Puerto Rico. <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/PR>