

State policies that promote health, education, and strong families can help the early development and school readiness of America's youngest citizens. These state policies are especially important to low-income families whose young children lack access to the kinds of supports and opportunities that their more affluent peers receive. Nationally, 10 million children under the age of 6 live in families earning twice the federal poverty level or less.¹ The National Center for Children in Poverty's Improving the Odds for Young Children project shines a spotlight on state variation in the policy commitment to low-income young children and families.

This national profile aggregates the policy choices of the 50 states and the District of Columbia alongside other contextual data related to the well-being of young children. The first page presents demographic information on children younger than age 6, and subsequent pages profile the policy context related to their: (1) health and nutrition, (2) early care and education, and (3) parenting and economic supports. State specific profiles are also available.

Complete source citations and endnotes are included with this profile. For easy reference, the year of the data appears in brackets. To show the range of variation among states, some graphs identify the states with the highest and lowest percentages alongside the national average.

In addition to the state and national profiles, the project includes:

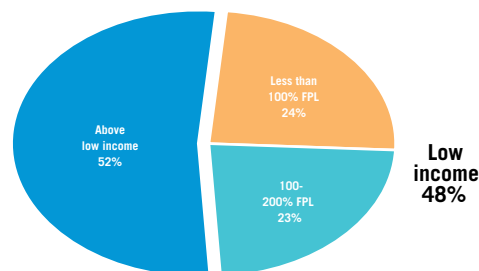
- Data tables that allow for comparisons across states on each policy choice
- A national report summarizing the research base for policies that promote early childhood development and key findings from the state profiles.

The Early Childhood Profiles will now include policy benchmarks that reflect key supports for the well-being and healthy development of children through age eight. Benchmarks relevant to this expanded early childhood age band will be added in future updates as new policy data become available.

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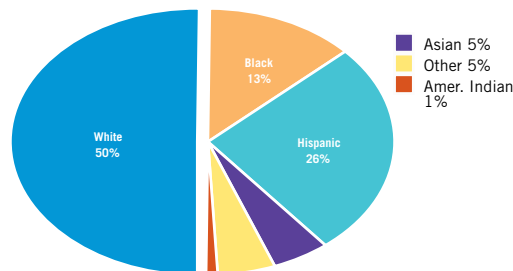
Young children (under age 6)²: 23,331,379

Young children by income, 2013²

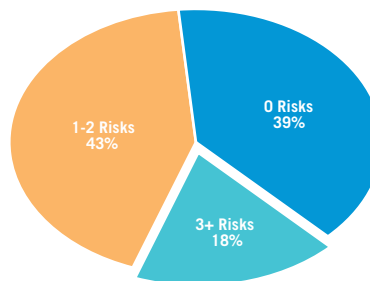


Among young children, 11% live in extreme poverty (less than 50% FPL).

Young children by race/ethnicity, 2013²



Exposure to multiple risk factors among young children, 2013*²



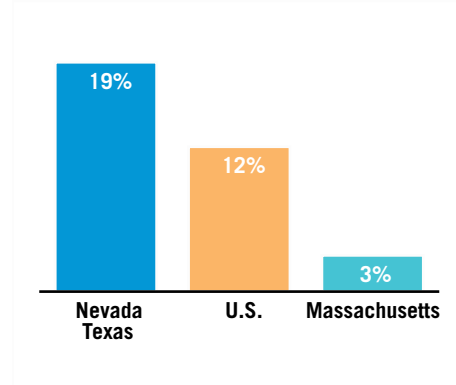
* This graph includes all possible risk factors: poor, single parent, teen mother, low parental education, nonemployed parents, residential mobility, households without English speakers, and large family size.

HEALTH AND NUTRITION

State Choices to Promote Access

- **46** states set the income eligibility limit for public health insurance (Medicaid/SCHIP) at or above 200 percent of the federal poverty level for children ages birth through 5 [2013]³
- **25** states set the income eligibility limit for public health insurance (Medicaid/SCHIP) at or above 200 percent of the federal poverty level for pregnant women [2013]³
- **12** states set the income eligibility limit for public health insurance (Medicaid/SCHIP) at or above 200 percent of the federal poverty level for immigrant children 0-1yr [2013]³
- **6** states set the income eligibility limit for public health insurance (Medicaid/SCHIP) at or above 200 percent of the federal poverty level for immigrant children 3-5yrs [2013]³
- **18** states set the income eligibility limit for public health insurance (Medicaid/SCHIP) at or above 200 percent of the federal poverty level for immigrant pregnant women [2013]³
- **21** states provide Medicaid and/or CHIP coverage for lawfully residing children [2013]⁴
- **17** states provide Medicaid and/or CHIP coverage for lawfully residing pregnant women [2013]⁴
- **32** states provide temporary coverage to pregnant women under Medicaid until eligibility can be formally determined. [2013]³
- **17** states provide temporary coverage to children under Medicaid or CHIP until eligibility can be formally determined. [2013]³
- **6** states include at-risk children in the definition of eligibility for IDEA Part C. [2012]⁵
- **32** states do not require redetermination of eligibility for Medicaid/CHIP more than once a year [2013]³
- **28** states have adopted Medicaid expansion as part of the Affordable Care Act [2014]⁶

Young children who lack health insurance, 2013²



State Choices to Promote Quality

EPSDT screening periodicity schedule meets recommendations of American Academy of Pediatrics [FY 2013]⁷

- **13** states require 7 screenings for children <1 year
 - **44** states require 4 screenings for children 1-2 years
 - **50** states require 3 screenings for children 3-5 years
 - **26** states require 4 screenings for children 6-9 years
- **8** states require newborn screening for the 31 metabolic deficiencies/disorders and core conditions [2014]⁸

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

State choices to promote access

- **14** states set the income eligibility limit for child care subsidies at or above 200% FPL. [2014]⁹
- **1** state child care subsidy reimbursement rate meets the recommended 75th percentile of the market rate [2012]¹⁰
- **27** states redetermine the eligibility for child care subsidies no more than once per year [FY 2013]¹¹
- **23** states supplement Early Head Start [2012]¹²
- **41** states fund a pre-kindergarten program and/or supplement Head Start. [2013]¹³
- **12** states require districts to offer full day kindergarten [2014]¹⁴

State choices to promote quality

- **7** states require one adult for every four 18-month-olds, and a maximum class size of eight in child care centers. [2013]¹⁵
- **26** states allocate state or federal funds for a network of infant/toddler specialists that provide assistance to child care providers. [2013]¹⁶
- **45** states have early learning standards or developmental guidelines for infants and toddlers. [2013]¹⁶
- **22** states have an infant/toddler credential. [2013]¹⁶
- **23** states require through regulation that infants and toddlers in child care centers be assigned a consistent primary caregiver. [FY 2013]¹⁷
- **15** states require one adult for every 10 4-year-olds, and a maximum class size of 20 in child care centers. [2013]¹⁵
- **40** states have implemented a statewide Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) [2015]¹⁸
- **8** states require one teacher for every 18 students in Kindergarten classrooms [2013]¹⁹
- **44** states have adopted Common Core Standards [2015]²⁰
- **3** states have comprehensive, free-standing standards for social emotional learning at the K-12 level [2015]²¹

PARENTING AND ECONOMIC SUPPORTS

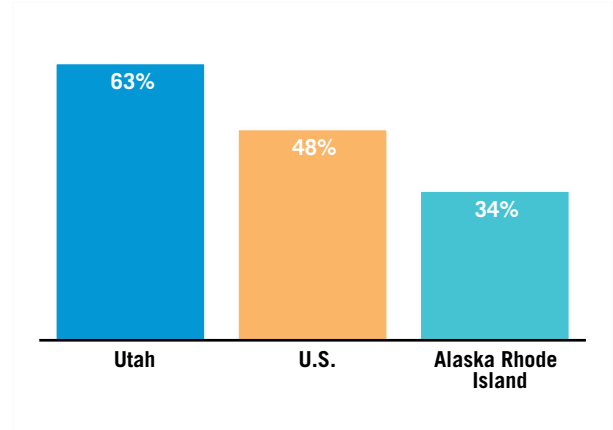
State choices to promote effective parenting

- **29** states provide option to extend Medicaid coverage for family planning to otherwise ineligible low-income women [2015]²²
- **25** states exempt single parents on TANF from work requirements until the youngest child reaches age 1. [FY 2013]²³
- **30** states reduce the TANF work requirement to 20 hours or less for single parents with children under age 6 [FY 2013]²³

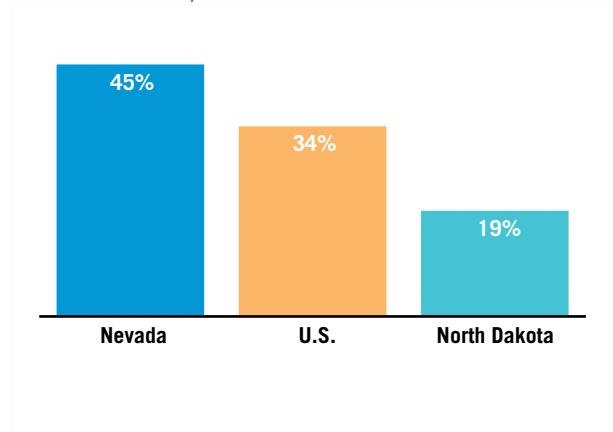
State choices to support family economic security

- **3** states established a state minimum wage that meets or exceeds \$9.10/hr and is indexed to inflation [2014]²⁴
- **41** states exempt single-parent families of three below the poverty level from personal income tax. [2012]²⁵
- **20** states offer a refundable state Earned Income Tax Credit. [2014]²⁶
- **11** states offer a refundable state dependent care tax credit. [2014]²⁷
- **26** states keep copayments for child care subsidies below 10% of family income for families of three at 150% FPL [2014]⁹
- **19** states offer exemptions and/or extensions of the TANF benefit time limit for women who are pregnant or caring for a child under age 6. [FY 2013]²³
- **2** states have paid family leave for a minimum of 6 weeks with full or partial replacement of wages [2013]²⁸

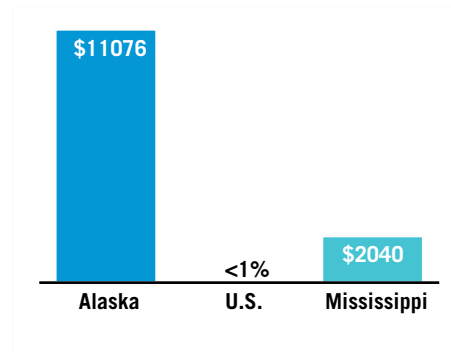
Low-income young children with a parent employed full-time, 2013²



Young children with mothers who have a high school education or less, 2013²



Maximum annual TANF benefit for a family of 3, for year 2013²³



DATA NOTES AND SOURCES

1. National Center for Children in Poverty Family Resource Simulator; and Jared Berstein, Chauna Brocht, and Maggie Spade-Aguilar, *How much is enough? Basic family budgets for working families*, Economic Policy Institute, 2000. These numbers are from the federal poverty guidelines issued annually by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, <http://aspe.hhs.gov>
2. National data were calculated from the 2013 American Community Survey, representing information from 2013. State data were calculated from the 2011-2013 American Community Survey, representing information from the years 2011-2013.
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*Fourth-grade students performing at the Proficient level in reading should be able to integrate and interpret texts and apply their understanding of the text to draw conclusions and make evaluations. <http://nces.ed.gov>
**The state's average NAEP score for children eligible for school lunch.
***The state's average NAEP score for children not eligible for school lunch.
U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics. 2013. *National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2013 Reading Assessment*. <http://nces.ed.gov> (accessed March 3, 2015).
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13. Barnett, W.S., Carolan, M.E., Squires, J.H., Clarke Brown, K. 2013. *The state of preschool 2013: State preschool yearbook*. New Brunswick, NJ: National Institute for Early Education Research.
14. Education Commission of the States. 2014. *Early Learning: Kindergarten Online Database*. <http://ecs.force.com> (accessed March 3, 2015).
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This profile is a product of NCCP's *Improving the Odds for Young Children* initiative, funded by the Alliance for Early Success. The information represents the most recent 50-state data sources and will be updated with the release of new data. See http://www.nccp.org/profiles/early_childhood.html for other state profiles.