

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. It takes at least twice the official federal poverty level (FPL), or \$35,200 for a family of three in 2008, for families to provide the basic necessities that their young children need to thrive.¹ Nationally, 10 million children under the age of 6 live in families earning twice the federal poverty level or less.² 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:

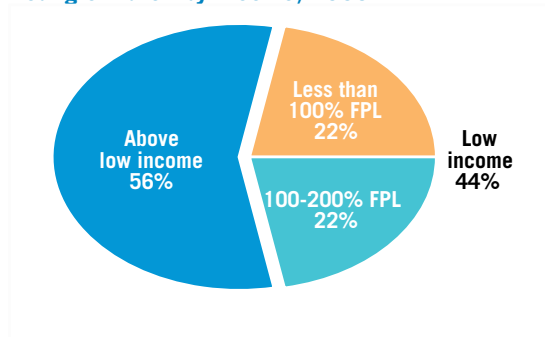
- Data tables that allow for comparisons across states on each policy choice
- A national report summarizing the research base for policies that promote early childhood development and key findings from the state profiles.

Updated: September 24, 2009

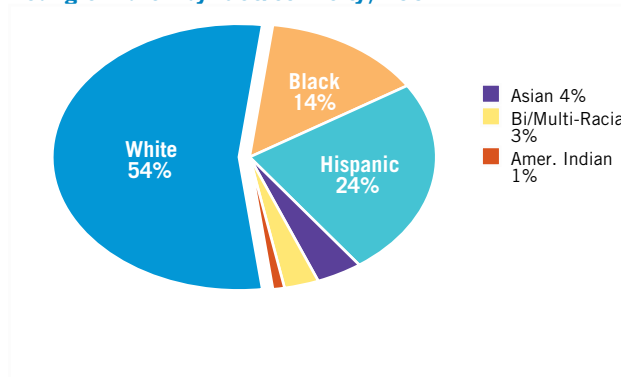
Send updates on your state's profile to : ITO@nccp.org

Young children (under age 6)²: 25,111,504
Infants and toddlers (under age 3)³: 12,572,197

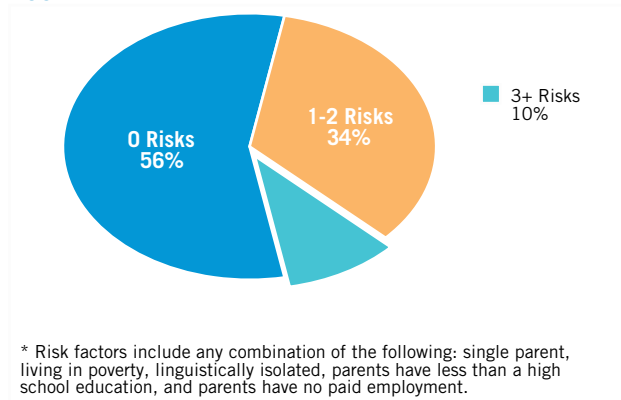
Young children by income, 2008²



Young children by race/ethnicity, 2007³



Exposure to multiple risk factors* among young children, 2007⁴



HEALTH AND NUTRITION

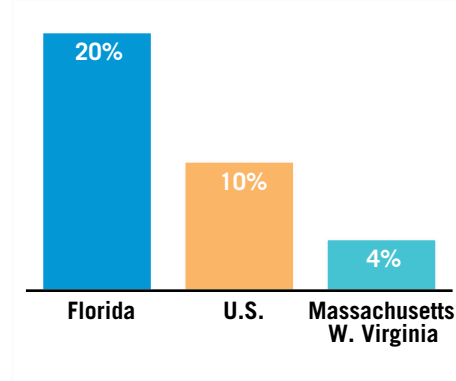
State Choices to Promote Access

- **44** 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 to 5 [2009]⁵
- **23** 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 [2009]⁵
- **11** states set the income eligibility limit for public health insurance (Medicaid/SCHIP) at or above 200 percent of the federal poverty level for working parents [2009]⁵
- **33** states provide temporary coverage to pregnant women under Medicaid until eligibility can be formally determined. [2009]⁵
- **13** states provide temporary coverage to children under Medicaid or SCHIP until eligibility can be formally determined. [2009]⁵
- **6** states include at-risk children in the definition of eligibility for IDEA Part C. [2006]⁶
- **9** states supplement WIC funding. [2006]⁷

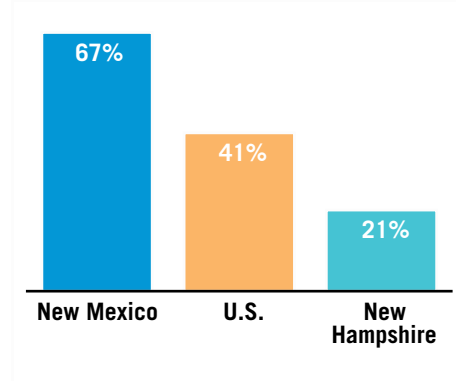
State Choices to Promote Quality

- **10** states meet the national benchmark that 80% of children on Medicaid receive an annual health screening under EPSDT*. [2007]⁸
- **34** states require newborn screening for hearing deficiencies. [2008]⁹
- **34** states require newborn screening for the 28 metabolic deficiencies/disorders recommended by the March of Dimes. [2008]⁹
- **4** states use the Diagnostic Classification of Mental Health and Development Disorders of Infancy and Early Childhood (DC:0-3) when seeking Medicaid reimbursement. [2006]¹⁰

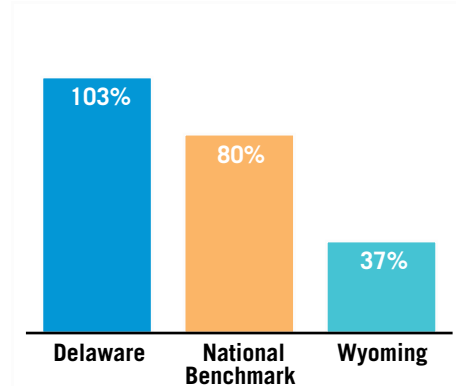
Young children who lack health insurance, 2007³



Medicaid births as a percentage of total births, 2002¹¹



Young children, ages 3-5 years, on Medicaid receiving at least one EPSDT* screen in a 12-month period, 2006¹²



* Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT)

EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

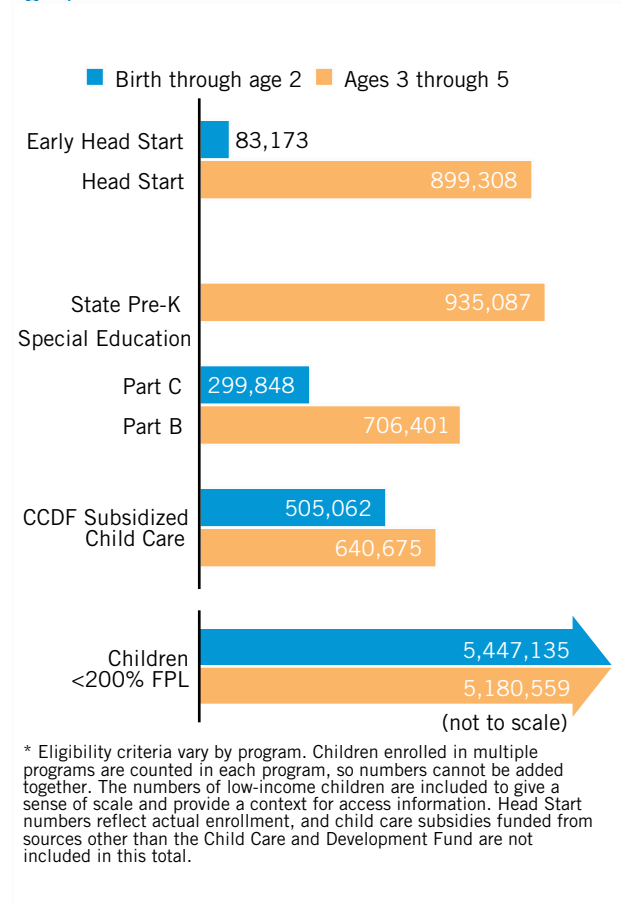
State choices to promote access

- **20** states set the income eligibility limit for child care subsidies at or above 200% FPL. [2008]¹³
- **10** states increased the child care subsidy reimbursement rate within the last two years to be at or above the 75th percentile of the market rate. [2008]¹⁴
- **22** states annually redetermine eligibility for child care subsidies, which can promote consistent caregiving relationships. [2008]¹⁵
- **17** states supplement Early Head Start with state or other federal funds. [2008]¹⁶
- **43** states fund a pre-kindergarten program and/or supplement Head Start. [2008]¹⁷

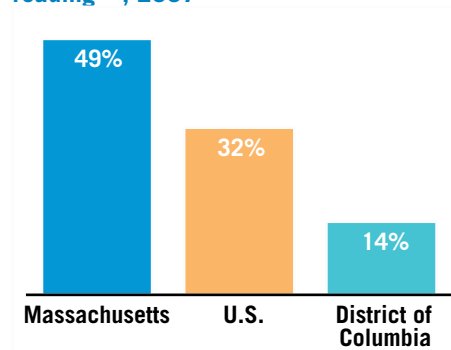
State choices to promote quality

- **15** states require one adult for every 10 4-year-olds, and a maximum class size of 20 in child care centers. [2007]¹⁸
- **8** states require one adult for every four 18-month-olds, and a maximum class size of eight in child care centers. [2007]¹⁸
- **22** states allocate state or federal funds for a network of infant/toddler specialists that provide assistance to child care providers. [2009]¹⁹
- **25** states have early learning standards or developmental guidelines for infants and toddlers. [2008]²⁰
- **22** states have an infant/toddler credential. [2009]¹⁹
- **23** states require through regulation that infants and toddlers in child care centers be assigned a consistent primary caregiver. [2008]²¹

Access to early childhood development programs, by age*, 2006²²



Fourth grade students testing proficient or better in reading**, 2007²³



** According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

PARENTING AND ECONOMIC SUPPORTS

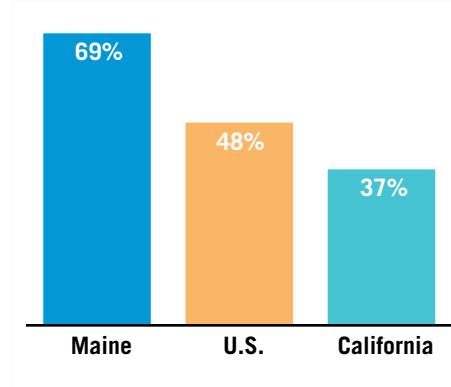
State choices to promote effective parenting

- **7** states provide paid medical/maternity leave. [2008]²⁴
- **26** states have a Medicaid family planning waiver to extend coverage to low-income women to increase the interval between pregnancies. [2008]²⁵
- **27** states exempt single parents on TANF from work requirements until the youngest child reaches age 1. [2006]²⁶
- **24** states reduce the TANF work requirement for single parents with children under age 6. [2006]²⁷
- **46** states allow parents in school to qualify for child care subsidies. [2005]²⁸
- **32** states operate a statewide home visiting program. [2007]²⁹
- **18** states formally link home visiting programs to supports for early childhood development (e.g. Medicaid/SCHIP, early intervention, and early childhood mental health). [2007]²⁹

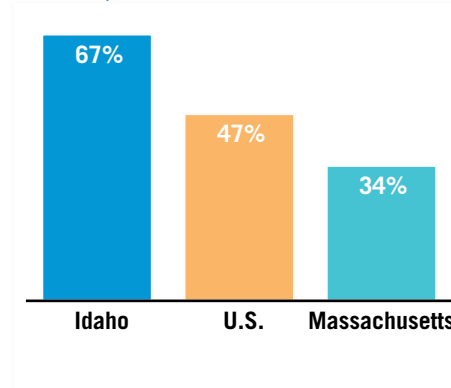
State choices to support family economic security

- **24** states establish a state minimum wage that exceeds the federal minimum wage. [July 2008]³⁰
- **36** states exempt a single-parent family of three below the poverty level from personal income tax. [2007]³¹
- **18** states offer a refundable state earned income tax credit. [2008]³²
- **13** states offer a refundable state dependent care tax credit. [2007]³³
- **16** states keep copayments for child care subsidies below 10% of family income for most families. [2008]³⁴
- **23** states allow families on TANF to receive some or all of their child support payment without reducing TANF cash assistance. [2007]³⁵

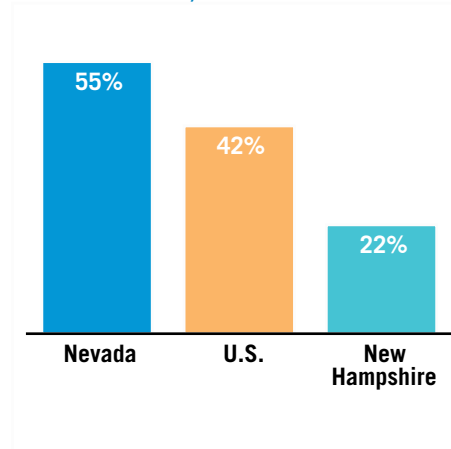
Young children who are read to every day, 2007³⁶



Low-income young children with a parent employed full-time, 2008²



Young children with mothers who have a high school education or less, 2007³



This profile is a product of NCCP's *Improving the Odds for Young Children* initiative. It is funded through NCCP's participation in The Birth to Five Policy Alliance, sponsored by the Buffett Early Childhood Fund. The information represents the most recent 50-state data sources and will be updated with the release of new data. See www.nccp.org/improvingtheodds for other state profiles.

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. State data were calculated from the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (the March supplement) of the Current Population Survey from 2007, 2008, and 2009, representing information from calendar years 2006, 2007, and 2008. NCCP averaged three years of data because of small sample sizes in less populated states. The national data were calculated from the 2009 data, representing information from the previous calendar year.
3. State data were calculated from the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (the March supplement) of the Current Population Survey from 2006, 2007, and 2008, representing information from calendar years 2005, 2006, and 2007. NCCP averaged three years of data because of small sample sizes in less populated states. The national data were calculated from the 2008 data, representing information from the previous calendar year.
4. National and state data were calculated from the 2007 American Community Survey.
5. Donna Cohen Ross and Caryn Marks, *Challenges of Providing Health Coverage of Children and Parents in a Recession: A 50-State Update on Eligibility Rules, Enrollment and Renewal Procedures, and Cost-Sharing Practices in Medicaid and SCHIP in 2009*, Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, January 2009 <http://www.kff.org> (accessed February 16, 2009).
6. Jo Schackelford, *State and Jurisdictional Eligibility Definitions for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities* under IDEA, NECTAC Notes, Issue No. 21, July, 2006.
7. U.S.D.A., Food and Nutrition Services, Data reflect state appropriations for State Fiscal Years 2001 and 2006, personal email (received April 25, 2006).
8. Data reflect the most recent information reported by the states: 20002 for ME; 2003 for WV; 2004 for MS; 2005 for IA, VT, and KY; 2007 for all other states. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, EPSDT CMS-416 Data, FY 2007, updated on July, 1, 2008
9. National Newborn Screening and Genetics Resource Center, *National Newborn Screening Status Report*, updated July 30, 2008 <http://genes-r-us.uthscsa.edu> (accessed August 2008).
10. Ngozi Onunaku, Zero to Three, personal email (received February 6, 2006).
11. Data from some states includes the Medicaid waiver expansion population. National Governors Association Center for Best Practices, Health Division, *Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Update 2005: States Make Modest Expansions to Health Care Coverage*, 2006.
12. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, EPSDT CMS-416 Data, FY 2007, updated on July, 1, 2008
13. Karen Schulman and Helen Blank, *State Child Care Assistance Policies 2008: Too Little Progress for Children and Families*, National Women's Law Center, September 2008.
14. State reimbursement rates are compared to the 75th percentile of market rates (the rate that allows parents access to 75 percent of providers in their community) because federal regulations recommend that rates be set at this level. A state is considered to have rates that were based on current market prices if the market survey used to set its rates was conducted no more than two years earlier (so, for example, rates used in 2005 were considered current if set at the 75th percentile of 2003 or more recent market rates). The data in these tables reflect states' basic rates. Some states may have higher rates for particular types of care such as higher-quality care or care for children with special needs. Karen Schulman and Helen Blank, *State Child Care Assistance Policies 2008: Too Little Progress for Children and Families*, National Women's Law Center, September 2008.
15. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, *Report of State and Territory Plans, FY 2008-2009*, 2008. <http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov> (Accessed February 24, 2009)
16. Rachel Schumacher and Elizabeth DiLauro, *Building on the Promise: State Initiatives to Expand Access to Early Head Start for Young Children and their Families*, Center for Law and Social Policy and Zero to Three Policy Center, April 2008.
17. W. Steven Barnett, Dale J. Epstein, Allison H. Friedman, Judi Stevenson Boyd, Jason T. Hustedt, *The State of Preschool 2008*, National Institute for Early Education Research, 2008.
18. National Child Care Information Center, "Child-Staff Ratios and Maximum Group Size Requirements in 2007," October 2008, <http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov> (accessed February 25, 2009).
19. ZERO TO THREE, personal e-mail (received March 5, 2009) based on information gathered as of February 9, 2009.
20. Zero to Three, personal email (received September 12, 2008) based on information gathered in September 2008.
21. National Association for Regulatory Administration and the National Child Care Information and Technical Assistance Center, *The 2007 Child Care Licensing Study: Final Report*, April 2009, pg 89. Available at <http://www.naralicensing.org> (accessed April 3, 2009)
22. **Number of children (2007)**: State data were calculated from the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (the March supplement) of the Current Population Survey from 2006, 2007, and 2008, representing information from calendar years 2005, 2006, and 2007. NCCP averaged three years of data because of small sample sizes in less populated states. The national data were calculated from the 2008 data, representing information from the previous calendar year.
Early Head Start and Head Start Actual Enrollment (2006): National Child Care Information Center, *The Child Care and Development Fund Report of State and Territory Plans, FY 2006-2007* p. 158, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, 2006.
State Pre-K enrollment (2006): W. Steven Barnett, Jason Hustedt, Kenneth Robin, and Karen Schulman, *The State of Preschool: 2006 State Preschool Yearbook*, National Institute for Early Education Research, 2006.
Birth to 2 Special Education, Part C (2006): U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, Data Analysis System (DANS), OMB #1820-0557: "Infants and Toddlers Receiving Early Intervention Services in Accordance with Part C," 2006. Data updated as of July 15, 2007.
Ages 3 to 5 Special Education, Part B (2006): U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, Data Analysis System (DANS), OMB #1820-0043: "Children with Disabilities Receiving Special Education Under Part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act" 2006. Data updated as of July 15, 2007. (accessed January 30, 2008).
Subsidized Child Care (2006): National Child Care Information Center, *The Child Care and Development Fund Report of State and Territory Plans, FY 2006-2007* p. 158, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, 2006.

23. U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Educational Statistics, National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 2007 Reading Assessment.
24. National Partnership for Women and Families, *Expecting Better: A State-by-State Analysis of Parental Leave Programs*, 2005 <http://paysickdays.nationalpartnership.org> (accessed March 2007).
25. State Medicaid Family Planning Eligibility Expansions, State Policies in Brief, as of April 1, 2007, Guttmacher Institute. Available at: <http://www.guttmacher.org> (accessed through <http://www.statehealthfacts.org> on April 30, 2008).
26. This table refers to single custodial parents over 21 years old. A sanction cannot be imposed for a child who has not attained 6 years of age if child care is unavailable.
Gretchen Rowe and Mary Murphy, *The Welfare Rules Databook: State Policies as of July 2006*, Assessing the New Federalism, The Urban Institute, 2007, Table III.B.1.
27. Gretchen Rowe and Mary Murphy, *The Welfare Rules Databook: State Policies as of July 2006*, Assessing the New Federalism, The Urban Institute, 2007, Table III.B.2, footnotes 3, 16, 19, 20, 21, and 27.
28. Karen Schulman and Helen Blank, *Child Care Assistance Policies 2005: States Fail to Make up Lost Ground, Families Continue to Lack Critical Supports*, National Women's Law Center, September 2005.
29. 2007 Survey conducted by Kay Johnson for the National Center for Children in Poverty (Publication forthcoming.) Indiana, Kansas, Vermont, Washington, and D.C. did not respond to the survey.
30. Economic Policy Institute, "Minimum Wage Issue Guide, Table 5," 2008, <http://www.epi.org> (accessed August 11, 2008).
31. Jason A. Levitis and Andrew C. Nicholas, *The Impact of State Income Taxes on Low-Income Families in 2007*, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2008. Available at: <http://www.cbpp.org> (Accessed March 19, 2009).
32. Community Resources Information, Inc., *TaxCreditResources.org*, section last updated 03/06/09, taxcreditresources.org (accessed March 25, 2009).
33. National Women's Law Center, *State Child and Dependent Care Tax Provisions, Tax Year 2007*, 2007.
34. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Report of State and Territory Plans, FY 2008-2009, 2008. <http://nccic.acf.hhs.gov> (Accessed April 2, 2009)
35. Jan Justice, *State Policy Re Pass-Through and Disregard of Current Month's Child Support Collected for Families Receiving TANF-Funded Cash Assistance*, Center for Law and Social Policy, 2007.
36. National Survey of Children's Health, Data Resource Center on Child and Adolescent Health *The Child and Adolescent Health Measurement Initiative* (2009). Retrieved June 1, 2009 from <http://www.nschdata.org>.