

**THE BASICS ABOUT INFANTS AND TODDLERS**

There are more than 12 million infants and toddlers in the United States. In the first 3 years of life, the brain undergoes dramatic development. Early experiences shape the brain's architecture into a foundation for learning, health, and eventual success in the workplace.

**75%** of infants and toddlers in a single-parent family live in poverty.

**35%** of infants and toddlers in a single-parent family live in poverty.

**31%** of infants and toddlers in a single-parent family live in poverty.



## NATIONAL BABY FACTS REFERENCE LIST

- Federal funding for children’s programs declined overall from 2010 to 2011 and is expected to continue on a downward trajectory over the next ten years.**  
Julia Isaacs, Katherine Toran, Heather Hahn, et al., *Kids’ Share 2012: Report on Federal Expenditures on Children Through 2011*. Urban Institute, 2012, [www.urban.org](http://www.urban.org).
- The science of early childhood development tells us that during the first 3 years of life the brain undergoes dramatic development as the child acquires the ability to think, speak, learn, and reason.**  
National Research Council and Institute of Medicine, *From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development*. Jack Shonkoff and Deborah A. Phillips, eds. Washington, DC: National Academy Press, 2000.
- A baby’s early experiences shape the brain’s architecture into a foundation for learning, health, and eventual success in the workplace.**  
National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, *InBrief: The Impact of Early Adversity on Children’s Development*. National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, 2011, <http://developingchild.harvard.edu>.
- Adverse early experiences—such as poverty or maltreatment—can weaken babies’ brain development and follow them their entire lives, placing them at greater risk for later school failure and health problems as adults.**  
National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, *InBrief: The Impact of Early Adversity on Children’s Development*. National Scientific Council on the Developing Child, 2011, <http://developingchild.harvard.edu>.

### THE BASICS ABOUT INFANTS AND TODDLERS

- There are more than 12 million infants and toddlers (children under age 3) in the United States.**  
U.S. Census Bureau, “Single Years of Age and Sex: Table QT-P2.” *2010 American Community Survey*, U.S. Census Bureau, 2011, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).
- Although infants and toddlers represent 16% of the child population under age 18, they are particularly vulnerable because they are disproportionately in low-income and poor families.**  
Sophia Addy and Vanessa Wight, *Basic Facts About Low-Income Children, 2010*. National Center for Children in Poverty, 2012, [www.nccp.org](http://www.nccp.org).
- Infants and toddlers in single parent families are more than twice as likely to be low-income as those in married couple families.**  
Addy and Wight, *Basic Facts About Low-Income Children, 2010*.
- Overall, about 2.3 million infants and toddlers have at least one parent who works full-time, year-round, whose wages still can’t pull the family above the low-income level.**

Addy and Wight, *Basic Facts About Low-Income Children*, 2010.

9. **Research shows that poverty at an early age can be especially harmful, affecting later achievement and employment.**  
Greg J. Duncan and Katherine Magnuson, "The Long Reach of Early Childhood Policy." *Pathways*, (Winter 2011): 22-27, [www.stanford.edu](http://www.stanford.edu).
10. **75% of infants and toddlers with a single parent are in low-income families.**  
Addy and Wight, *Basic Facts About Low-Income Children*, 2010.
11. **35% of infants and toddlers with married parents are in low-income families.**  
Addy and Wight, *Basic Facts About Low-Income Children*, 2010.
12. **31% of infants and toddlers with at least one parent who works full-time live in low-income families**  
Addy and Wight, *Basic Facts About Low-Income Children*, 2010.
13. **Nationally, almost half (48%) of children under age 3 live in low-income families (with an income less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)), including 25% that live in families in poverty (with an income less than 100% of the FPL).**  
Addy and Wight, *Basic Facts About Low-Income Children*, 2010.
14. **In 2011, for the first time, more than half (50.4%) of our nation's population under age 1 were minorities, up from 49.5% the previous year.**  
U.S. Census Bureau, "Most Children Younger Than Age 1 Are Minorities, Census Bureau Reports." Press release, May 17, 2012, <http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/population/cb12-90.html>.
15. **Black and Hispanic infants and toddlers are much more likely than White infants and toddlers to live in poverty.**  
Addy and Wight, *Basic Facts About Low-Income Children*, 2010.
16. **63% of infants and toddlers in the United States are White; 14.4% are Black; 4.7% are Asian, Pacific Islander; 1.2% are American Indian, Alaska Native; 25.5% are Hispanic (persons of Hispanic origin can be of any race).**  
U.S. Census Bureau, "Single Years of Age and Sex: Table QT-P2." *2010 American Community Survey*, U.S. Census Bureau, 2011, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).
17. **North Dakota and the District of Columbia have the largest percentage of children under age 3, representing 18% and 20% of the child population under age 18, respectively.**  
U.S. Census Bureau, "Single Years of Age and Sex: Table QT-P2." *2010 American Community Survey*, U.S. Census Bureau, 2011, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).
18. **In both New Hampshire and Connecticut, children under age 3 make up approximately 14% of the total child population.**  
U.S. Census Bureau, "Single Years of Age and Sex: Table QT-P2." *2010 American Community Survey*, U.S. Census Bureau, 2011, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).
19. **In Mississippi and Louisiana, 45% of children under age 3 live with a single parent; only 15% of Utah's babies live with a single parent.**  
National Center for Children in Poverty, "Young Child Risk Calculator." National Center for Children in Poverty, 2011, [www.nccp.org](http://www.nccp.org).
20. **In a majority of states, at least one in four very young children lives in poverty.**

National Center for Children in Poverty, *State Early Childhood Profiles*, 2011. National Center for Children in Poverty, 2011, [www.nccp.org](http://www.nccp.org).

21. **Within the U.S., Mississippi has the highest percentage of infants and toddlers living with families in poverty, at 35%. New Hampshire has the lowest percentage of infants and toddlers living with families in poverty, at 13%.**  
Addy and Wight, *Basic Facts About Low-Income Children*, 2010.
22. **The U.S. ranks last for relative child poverty among 20 economically advanced countries with annual per capita income of more than \$31,000.**  
UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, *Measuring Child Poverty: New League Tables of Child Poverty in the World's Rich Countries, Innocenti Report Card 10*. UNICEF, Innocenti Research Centre, Florence, 2012, [www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/rc10\\_eng.pdf](http://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/rc10_eng.pdf).
23. **38 countries performed better than the U.S. on their under age 5 mortality rate, a critical indicator of the well-being of children.**  
UNICEF, *The State of the World's Children 2011*. United Nations Children's Fund, 2011, [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org).
24. **Among 34 countries, the U.S. ranks 31<sup>st</sup> for infant mortality rate (infant deaths/1,000 live births).**  
Elayne J. Heisler, *The U.S. Infant Mortality Rate: International Comparisons, Underlying Factors, and Federal Programs*. Congressional Research Service Report R41378, 2012, [www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41378.pdf](http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41378.pdf).

## GOOD HEALTH AND NUTRITION

25. **The Healthy People 2020 initiative sets national 10-year goals to improve health indicators and measure progress.**  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, *Access to Health Services*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2012, <http://healthypeople.gov/2020/topicsobjectives2020/overview.aspx?topicId=1>.
26. **Low birthweight increases the risk of infant mortality as well as long-term disability and developmental problems.**  
Child Trends, *Low and Very Low Birthweight Infants*. Child Trends Databank, March 2012, [www.childtrendsdatabank.org/?q=node/67](http://www.childtrendsdatabank.org/?q=node/67).
27. **In the majority of states in the U.S., between 8% and 9% of babies are born with low birthweight.**  
The Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center, "Data Across States: Low-Birthweight Babies (Percent)—2008." Kids Count Data Center, 2009, <http://datacenter.kidscount.org>.
28. **The highest percentage of low-birthweight babies (10-11%) are in three states in the south: Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi.**  
The Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center, "Data Across States: Low-Birthweight Babies (Percent)-2008."
29. **Health disparities are apparent in the variation of rates of low birthweight and preterm birth by racial and ethnic background. Black infants are more likely to have these characteristics than infants of other backgrounds.**  
Brady E. Hamilton, Joyce A. Martin, and Stephanie J. Ventura, *Births: Preliminary Data for 2010*. Division of Vital Statistics, National Vital Statistics Reports, 2011, [www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr60/nvsr60\\_02.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr60/nvsr60_02.pdf).
30. **Medicaid covers over one-third of all births in the U.S. each year.**  
Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, *Policy Basics: Introduction to Medicaid*, December 17, 2008, [www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=2223](http://www.cbpp.org/cms/index.cfm?fa=view&id=2223).

31. **Due in large part to Medicaid and CHIP, the national rate of uninsured low-income children of all ages fell from 28% in 1998 to 10.4% in 2010.**  
The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, *The Impact of Medicaid and SCHIP on Low-Income Children's Health*. Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, 2009, [www.kff.org/about/kcmu.cfm](http://www.kff.org/about/kcmu.cfm).
32. **Insured children are three times more likely to have seen a doctor compared to uninsured children, and the need for health care during a child's earliest years is more crucial than at most other times in life, as preventative care and screening can catch problems early.**  
Jennifer Sullivan, *No Shelter from the Storm: America's Uninsured Children*. Families USA, 2006, [www.familiesusa.org](http://www.familiesusa.org). Percentage of all uninsured children under the age of 3 is calculated based on data provided in U.S. Census Bureau, "Table HIA-3: Health Insurance Coverage Status and Type of Coverage."
33. **12% of babies are born preterm. (Healthy People 2020 goal: 11.4%)**  
Hamilton, Martin, and Ventura, *Births: Preliminary Data for 2010*.  
  
Child Trends, *Preterm Births*. Child Trends Databank, July 2012, [www.childtrendsdatabank.org/?q=node/361](http://www.childtrendsdatabank.org/?q=node/361).
34. **8.2% of babies have low birthweight. (Healthy People 2020 goal: 7.8%)**  
Hamilton, Martin, and Ventura, *Births: Preliminary Data for 2010*.  
  
Child Trends, *Low and Very Low Birthweight Infants*. Child Trends Databank, March 2012, [www.childtrendsdatabank.org/?q=node/67](http://www.childtrendsdatabank.org/?q=node/67).
35. **Only 75% of two-year-olds are fully immunized. (Healthy People 2020 goal: 80%)**  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Estimated Vaccination Coverage with 4:3:1:0:3:1 Among Children 19–35 Months of Age by Race/Ethnicity and by State and Local Area." In *U.S. National Immunization Survey, Q1/2010-Q4/2010*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2010, [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).  
  
Child Trends, *Immunization*. Child Trends Databank, July 2012, [www.childtrendsdatabank.org/?q=node/71](http://www.childtrendsdatabank.org/?q=node/71).
36. **8.3% of children under age 6 don't have health insurance coverage.**  
Carmen DeNavas-Walt, Bernadette D. Proctor, and Jessica C. Smith, *Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2011*. U.S. Census Bureau, 2012, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).
37. **26.4% of children under age 5 are at moderate or high risk for developmental or behavioral delays.**  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, *The National Survey of Children's Health 2007*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2009, <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/national/1child/1healthstatus/pages/08pcrdp.html>.
38. **Young children whose families receive SNAP are less likely to be underweight or at risk for developmental delays.**  
Children's HealthWatch. *The SNAP Vaccine: Boosting Children's Health*. Children's HealthWatch, 2012, [www.childrenshealthwatch.org](http://www.childrenshealthwatch.org).
39. **16% of SNAP recipients are under age 5.**  
Esa Eslami, Kai Filion, and Mark Strayer, *Characteristics of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Households: Fiscal Year 2010*. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Research and Analysis, 2011.

40. **Nationwide, mothers who participate in WIC are 44% less likely to have low-birthweight babies and also experience fewer preterm births.**  
Children's HealthWatch. *Feeding Our Future: Growing up Healthy with WIC*. Children's HealthWatch, 2009, [www.childrenshealthwatch.org](http://www.childrenshealthwatch.org).
41. **More than 10 million mothers, infants, and children receive WIC, of which 60.9% of all WIC participants are White, 19.3% are Black/African American, and 42% are Hispanic/Latino.**  
Patty Connor, Susan Bartlett, Michele Mendelson, et al., *WIC Participant and Program Characteristics 2010*. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Office of Research and Analysis, 2011, [www.fns.usda.gov](http://www.fns.usda.gov).
42. **24% of WIC recipients are infants.**  
Connor, Bartlett, Mendelson, et al., *WIC Participant and Program Characteristics 2010*.

## STRONG FAMILIES

43. **30% of infants and toddlers in low-income families moved in the previous year, while only 17% of infants and toddlers in families above low income moved in the previous year.**  
Addy and Wight, *Basic Facts About Low-Income Children*, 2010.
44. **44% of children living with a grandparent who is primarily responsible for their care are under age 6.**  
U.S. Census Bureau, "Grandchildren Under 18 Years Living with a Grandparent Householder by Grandparent Responsibility, Presence of Parent, and Age of Grandchild: Table B10001." *2005 American Community Survey*, U.S. Census Bureau, 2011, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).
45. **27% of maltreated children are under age 3.**  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth, and Families, Children's Bureau, "Child Maltreatment 2010." U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2011, [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm10/cm10.pdf#page=70](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm10/cm10.pdf#page=70).
46. **In almost every state in the U.S., more than 30% of families receiving TANF benefits have children under the age of 3.**  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance, "Table 34: Temporary Assistance for Needy Families—Active Cases, Percent Distribution of TANF Youngest Child Recipient by Age Group." U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2009, [www.acf.hhs.gov](http://www.acf.hhs.gov).
47. **Only 27 of every 100 families with children in poverty receive TANF benefits.**  
Danilo Trisi and LaDonna Pavetti, *TANF Weakening as a Safety Net for Poor Families*. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2012, [www.cbpp.org](http://www.cbpp.org).
48. **About 22% of households receiving heating assistance through LIHEAP include at least one child 5 years old or younger.**  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, *Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program Report to Congress for Fiscal Year 2007*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2010, [www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/publications/liheap07rc.pdf](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/liheap/publications/liheap07rc.pdf).
49. **Young children in low-income households receiving LIHEAP are less likely than their counterparts to be undernourished, require emergency hospitalization, or incur developmental problems.**

John T. Cook, Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba, Elizabeth L. March, et al., *Energy Insecurity Is a Major Threat to Child Health: Children's HealthWatch Policy Action Brief*. Children's HealthWatch, 2010, [www.childrenshealthwatch.org](http://www.childrenshealthwatch.org).

**50. 31% of children entering foster care are under age 3.**

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration for Children, Youth, and Families, Children's Bureau, "Child Maltreatment 2010."

**51. Infants who are under 3 months old upon entering foster care remain in care 50% longer than older children and are much more likely to be adopted than reunified with their family.**

Fred Wulczyn, Lijun Chen, Linda Collins, et al., "The Foster Care Baby Boom Revisited: What Do the Numbers Tell Us?" *Zero to Three*, 31, no. 3 (2011): 4–10.

**52. Once in care, infants are particularly vulnerable to delays in emotional, social, and cognitive development.**

Fred Wulczyn, Michelle Ernst, Philip Fisher, "Who Are the Infants in Out-of-Home Care? An Epidemiological and Developmental Snapshot." Chapin Hall Issue Brief, 2011, [www.chapinhall.org](http://www.chapinhall.org).

**53. In all but 1 of the 50 states, at least 20% of the children entering foster care are under the age of 3.**

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau, Child Welfare Outcomes Report Data, "Characteristics of Children in Foster Care." U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2010, <http://cwoutcomes.acf.hhs.gov>.

**54. In states like Illinois, Florida, Rhode Island, Texas, Nevada, Alabama, Arizona, and Oklahoma, over 30% of children entering foster care are under the age of 3.**

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Children's Bureau, Child Welfare Outcomes Report Data, "Characteristics of Children in Foster Care."

## **POSITIVE EARLY LEARNING EXPERIENCES**

**55. In every state in the U.S., at least half of all mothers with infants are in the labor force.**

U.S. Census Bureau, "Women 16 to 50 Years Who Had a Birth in the Past 12 Months by Marital Status and Labor Force Status: Table B13012." In *2010 American Community Survey*, U.S. Census Bureau, 2011, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

**56. South Dakota has the highest percentage of mothers who have an infant and are in the labor force, at 78%. In five other states, over 70% of mothers with infants are in the workforce: North Dakota, Rhode Island, Nebraska, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. Arkansas has the lowest at 51%, still accounting for over half of all mothers with infants.**

U.S. Census Bureau, "Women 16 to 50 Years Who Had a Birth in the Past 12 Months by Marital Status and Labor Force Status: Table B13012."

**57. Second only to the immediate family, child care is the setting in which early childhood development unfolds for many of these young children.**

National Research Council and Institute of Medicine, *From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development*.

**58. Research indicates that the strongest effects of quality care are found with at-risk children—children from families with few resources and under great stress.**

National Research Council and Institute of Medicine, *From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development*.

59. **Nationally, the cost of an infant's child care for single mothers varies anywhere from 25% to 69% of their median income, and the cost for married couples ranges from 7% to 16%.**  
National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (Child Care Aware of America as of March 2012), *Child Care in America: 2011 State Fact Sheets*. National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, 2011, [www.naccrra.org](http://www.naccrra.org).
60. **Both parents and early childhood professionals play a critical role in the development of a child's early literacy skills—the skills a child develops through experiences with conversation, stories (oral and written), books, and print.**  
Rebecca Parlakian, *Before the ABCs: Promoting School Readiness in Infants and Toddlers*. Washington, DC: ZERO TO THREE, 2003.
61. **The interactive nature of the relationship between a child and his caregivers is essential to the developing brain. These relationships are critical as the brain forms the complex web of visual, language, motor, and social-emotional connections essential for later literacy learning.**  
Janice Im, Carol Osborn, Sylvia Sánchez, et al., *Cradling Literacy: Building Teachers' Skills to Nurture Early Language and Literacy from Birth to Five*. Washington, DC: ZERO TO THREE, 2007.
62. **63% of mothers with infants are in the labor force.**  
U.S. Census Bureau, "Women 16 to 50 Years Who Had a Birth in the Past 12 Months by Marital Status and Labor Force Status: Table B13012."
63. **31% of children age 0-5 have parents who had to make emergency child care arrangements or change jobs for child care reasons.**  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, *The National Survey of Children's Health 2007*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2009, <http://mchb.hrsa.gov/nsch/07main/national/1child/1healthstatus/pages/08pcrdp.html>.
64. **48% of parents read to their 0-5 year-old each day.**  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, *The National Survey of Children's Health 2007*.
65. **More than half of White (57.4%), multiracial (54%) and children of other races (50.8%) have parents who read to them every day. This is compared to the much lower percentages for Black children (38.6%) and Hispanic children (28.2%).**  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, *The National Survey of Children's Health 2007*.
66. **59% of parents tell stories and sing to their 0-5 year-old each day.**  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal and Child Health Bureau, *The National Survey of Children's Health 2007*.
67. **Less than 4% of eligible infants and toddlers participate in EHS.**  
2010 is the most recent year of Census Bureau data available. Note that 120,433 is the exact number of children under 3 served by Early Head Start in fiscal year 2010. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center, *Head Start Program Information Report for the 2010–2011 Program Year, Early Head Start Programs Only*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Note that 3,248,000 children under 3 in the United States live below the federal poverty level. U.S. Census Bureau, "Table POV 34: Single Year of Age—Poverty Status: 2010. In *Current Population Survey, 2011 Annual Social and Economic Supplement*. U.S. Census Bureau, 2010, [www.census.gov](http://www.census.gov).

68. **EHS plays an important role in children’s success in school, family self-sufficiency, and parent support of their child’s development.**  
Elizabeth DiLauro, *Learning, Thriving, and Ready to Succeed: Infants and Toddlers in Early Head Start*. ZERO TO THREE, 2010, [www.zerotothree.org/policyguide](http://www.zerotothree.org/policyguide).
69. **30% of children receiving child care subsidies funded by the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) are infants and toddlers.**  
CLASP, “United States Child Care Assistance Profile,” [www.clasp.org/admin/site/publications/files/2010-Child-Care-Assistance-Profile-US.pdf](http://www.clasp.org/admin/site/publications/files/2010-Child-Care-Assistance-Profile-US.pdf)
70. **CCDBG is able to serve only 1 in 6 eligible children.**  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Human Services Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, *Estimates of Child Care Eligibility and Receipt for Fiscal Year 2006*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2010, <http://aspe.hhs.gov/hsp/10/cc-eligibility/ib.shtml>.
71. **2.82% of infants and toddlers receive early intervention services under Part C.**  
The National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center, “Annual Appropriations and Number of Children Served Under Part C of IDEA, Federal Fiscal Years 1987-2012.” Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2012, <http://www.nectac.org/partc/partcdata.asp>.