INFANT AND TODDLER DATA TO SUPPORT READY LEARNERS

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27 | 10:30-11:30 A.M.

EARLY LEARNING FELLOWS PROGRAM | MEETING #2: POLICY, RESEARCH AND INNOVATIONS
SESSION GOALS

- PN-3 Legislative Advisory Group and Guidebook
- Think Babies
- State of Babies Yearbook
This session was made possible with funding from ZERO TO THREE as part of Think Babies™, which was developed to make the potential of every baby a national priority. Funding partners for Think Babies™ include the Perigee Fund, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which supports the public education aspects of Think Babies.
NCSL PN-3 Advisory Group Party Affiliation

- Republican: 5
- Democrat: 4
- Non-Partisan: 2
PN-3 LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY GROUP

- Provide a neutral, bipartisan forum for dialogue around prenatal-to-three policy issues.
- Enhance the leadership capabilities of participating state legislators by increasing their knowledge of prenatal-to-three policy issues.
- Inform a broader legislative audience on prenatal-to-three policy issues through a legislative framework.

Thanks to the Pritzker Children’s Initiative.
Strong Beginnings, Successful Lives:
A Prenatal-to-Three Policy Framework for Legislators

- Increased School Readiness
- Reduced Crime
- Improved Health Outcomes
- Stronger Future Workforce

HEALTHY BEGINNINGS
- Access to Prenatal Care
- Breastfeeding Needs and Supports
- Public Awareness of Healthy Pregnancies

EARLY LEARNING, DEVELOPMENT AND CARE
- High-Quality Early Care and Learning System
- Early Care and Education Professionals
- Developmental Screenings and Interventions

FAMILY SUPPORTS
- Family Economic Supports
- Parent Training and Education
- Streamlined Services and Resources

NCSL
Three Early Steps

1. Ask your state maternal and child health director about opportunities to better support healthy development through your state’s prenatal care policies and programs in your state.
2. Find out more about your state’s rate of breastfeeding.
3. Gather information about the percentage of well-child visits in your state.

Five Questions to Ask

1. What percentage of women in my state have access to prenatal care?
2. What percentage of women in my state breastfeed for at least six months? One year?
3. Which hospitals in my state are “baby friendly?”
4. What percentage of babies in my state receive well-child visits?
5. How many pregnant and postpartum women and infants participate in WIC services in my state?
Helping Babies and Toddlers Thrive: A Look at Recent State Legislation

Why Babies?

With a million new neural connections forming every second, a baby’s brain grows and develops most in the first few years, then at any later point in life. Active and nurturing relationships with caregivers, high-quality early learning environments, and access to nutrition and other resources for healthy development by the Foundation for Lifelong Success in school, relationships, work and beyond.

The Role of Legislators

State legislators can play an important role in helping infants, toddlers, and their families thrive. Legislators informed and engaged to state priorities, enact legislation, develop and approve budgets, leverage federal funding, provide independent oversight of state agencies, and establish committees and task forces to bring additional expertise and perspectives to state issues. As leaders in their communities, state legislators have a vested interest in not only promoting the health and success of their state’s future students and workforce, but also avoiding higher costs to the state down the road. In the long run, failing to support healthy development in infants and toddlers can lead to greater spending on health, child care, remedial education and other supports.

Working With State Legislators: A Guide for Infant-Toddler Professionals

State legislators take positions and vote on legislation that affects infants and toddlers. Because of the variety and complexity of the policy issues before them, state legislators often rely on their staff, the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), academic researchers, advocates, practitioners and community members to present information and propose policies that address a need or respond to an opportunity in their federal funds. They also rely on experts in the field—people like you—for firsthand perspectives about the effects of local and public funding of early childhood programs and services. These include child care, Early Head Start, early childhood education programs and early childhood mental health.
NCSL CONTACTS

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ThinkBabies™
State of Babies Yearbook: 2019

Patricia Cole, Senior Director of Federal Policy, ZERO TO THREE
NCSL Early Learning Fellows, August 27, 2019
Agenda

• Brain development refresher

• Overview of State of Babies Yearbook: 2019
  • Background/Objectives
  • Indicators

• Summary of Findings
  • Findings Critical to Early Learning and Development
  • Implications for State Policymakers

• What’s next for State of Babies?

• Discussion and Q&A
A baby’s brain develops faster between ages 0 to 3 than at any later point in life.
1 Million New Connections Every Second

Babies Gain Knowledge at a Staggering Rate:
Critical foundations for learning: Development of neural connections for key functions peaks in early years.

Slide courtesy of Ross A. Thompson

What does “Baby Learning” look like?
How Important Are Early Relationships? Connecting with Caregivers Helps Babies’ Brains Organize

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=apzXGEbZht0

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Babies are born with unlimited potential.

For the 12 million infants and toddlers in the United States, the state where they are born and live during their first three years makes a big difference in their chance for a strong start in life. The littlest among us face big challenges, and we can’t afford to squander the potential of a single child.
Policy Framework

- **Good Health**
  - Health Care Access/Affordability
  - Food Security
  - Nutrition
  - Maternal Health
  - Child Health
  - Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health

- **Strong Families**
  - Basic Needs Support
  - Child Welfare
  - Home Visiting
  - Supportive Policies/Paid Leave

- **Positive Early Learning Experiences**
  - Early Care and Education Opportunities
  - Early Intervention and Prevention Services
## State Profiles

### The State of Colorado’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 fact sheet provides a snapshot of how infants, toddlers, and their families are faring with respect to these three developmental domains for each domain, selected data on family indicators and policy indicators are highlighted and samples to calculate averages. Important demographic information is also included. A summary table of all indicators is provided on the last page for reference.

### Early Learning Experiences

#### GROW

**Overall**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Getting Started</th>
<th>Teaching Forward</th>
<th>Improving Outcomes</th>
<th>Final Goal</th>
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<tr>
<td>Health</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
<td>50.1%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
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#### Six Key Indicators of Positive Early Learning Experiences

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key</th>
<th>Colorado</th>
<th>National Average</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% Income-Eligible Infants/Head Start Access</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developmental Screening</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
<td>10.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parent Self-Efficacy</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
<td>50.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost of Care as % of Income Single Parent</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Income/Income-Eligible CCDF Funders</td>
<td>3.9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of Infants/Head Start</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Positive Early Learning Experiences Policy in Colorado

- Families above 200% of FPL eligible for child care subsidy

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### Demographics

**Infants and Toddlers in Colorado**

- Colorado: 201,409 infants and toddlers
- 58% percent of the state’s population
- As many as 22% percent live in households with incomes less than 100% of the federal poverty line
- In 2017, 20,000,000 per year for a family of four, living at or below the poverty level at 13.1%

### Overview

- Infants and toddlers in poverty
- Private status of infants and toddlers
- Homelessness
- Child abuse
- Family structure
- Child care subsidies

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### Colorado’s Rankings

- **GETTING STARTED**
  - Healthy Schools
  - Healthy Communities
  - Healthy Mothers
  - Early Learning
  - Early Education

- **TEACHING FORWARD**
  - Quality Care
  - Quality Education
  - Quality Health

- **IMPROVING OUTCOMES**
  - Healthy Children
  - Healthy Families
  - Healthy Communities

- **FINAL GOAL**
  - Healthy Lives
Key Findings: Good Health
**Good Health & Early Learning**

**Challenges that could affect development:**

- **Low Birthweight**
  - 1 in 12 babies (8.2%) is born at low birthweight

- **Maternal Mental Health**
  - 1 in 5 mothers rate their mental health as worse than excellent or very good

- **Nutrition/Food Insecurity**
  - 1 in 6 households (16.5%) with infants/toddlers experience low or very low food security

- **Health Care Coverage**
  - 5.8% of low-income infants/toddlers lack any form of health insurance

**Facilitators:**

- **Access to Health Care**
  - Half (51%) of children under age 3 covered by Medicaid
    (associated with better long-term health, educational, and employment outcomes)

- **Well-child Visits—Sentinels for development**
  - 90.7% of infants/toddlers had a preventive medical visit in the past year.

**Supportive Policies and Services**

- **Medicaid covers Maternal and Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) Services**
  - 36 states cover maternal depression screening during well-child visits
  - 41 states cover social-emotional screening of young children
Key Findings: Strong Families
Strong Families & Early Learning

• **Facilitators**
  • Family Resilience
    • 4 out of 5 families with an infant/toddler report a favorable level of resilience

• **Challenges**
  • **Child Poverty** -- Nearly 1 in 4 babies (23%) is living in poverty
  • **Housing Instability/Crowding**
    • 2.5% of babies experience housing instability (3+ moves since birth)
    • 1 in 6 (15.6%) of babies live in crowded housing
  • **Adverse Childhood Experiences**
    • 1 in 5 babies (21.9%) has experienced one adverse event

• **Supportive policies and services**
  • **Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)** -- Received by 20.6% of families below poverty level with babies
  • **Home Visiting Services** – Received by 1.9% of infants/toddlers who could benefit
  • **Paid Family Leave** -- 9 states provide PFML (healthy bonding/attachment)
Key Findings: Positive Early Learning Experiences
**Positive Early Learning Experiences**

**Key Point:** The quality of babies’ early learning experiences at home and in other care settings has a lasting impact on their preparedness for lifelong learning.

- **Language and literacy skills**
  - Fundamental to many areas of learning and later school success
  - Begin developing at birth and are fostered by parents and caregivers sharing books, telling stories, singing songs, and talking with their babies.
    - 56.4% of parents report singing songs or telling stories every day
    - 38.2% of parents report reading to their baby every day
Positive Early Learning Experiences

Developmental Screening & Early Intervention

**Key Point:** Early identification of developmental delays and intervention are essential during the critical period of rapid growth in babies’ first 3 years.

- Babies who are screened are more likely to have delays identified, be referred for early intervention, and be determined eligible for early intervention services.

- 30% of infants and toddlers (age 9 months - 35 months) received a developmental screening in the past year.

- 3.1% of infants/toddlers received early intervention services.
Positive Early Learning Experiences

**Key Point:** Access to high-quality early care and learning opportunities has substantial impact on low-income babies’ development.

**Early Head Start (EHS)**

- A comprehensive child development and family support program for infants, toddlers, and pregnant women in families with incomes below Federal Poverty Level.
- Child outcomes include enhanced cognitive development, attention, and engagement.
- Parents had decreased stress and family conflict and were better able to support their children’s development.

- *Only 7% of infants and toddlers eligible for Early Head Start are reached by the program.*
**Positive Early Learning Experiences**

**Key Point:** Quality Child Care is an important early development setting for babies

- 62% of mothers with infants and toddlers are in the workforce
  - Access to affordable, quality care is essential

- Infant/toddler child care costs exceed one third of a single parent income in several states and cost more than college tuition in 28 states and the District of Columbia.

- Despite the high cost of infant care, few families receive financial assistance for it.
  - 12 states allow child care subsidies for families with incomes above 200 percent of FPL
  - Only 4.2% of infants/toddlers in low- or moderate-income families receive subsidies
Nurturing the Potential of America’s Babies

• The 12 million infants and toddlers in the U.S. represent unlimited potential we will need for a strong future

• Parents and other caregivers shape this potential by nurturing hearts, minds, and bodies

• State of Babies 2019 indicators raise early warnings that not all babies have the ingredients to thrive

• Policymakers have an opportunity to help families ensure their children have strong connections for success in life

We cannot afford to waste the potential of a single child
Next Up:

**State of Babies Yearbook: 2020**

Babies are born with unlimited potential.

For the 12 million infants and toddlers in the United States, the state where they are born and live during their first three years makes a big difference in their chance for a strong start in life. The tiniest among us face big challenges, and we can’t afford to squander the potential of a single child.

[stateofbabies.org]
For Additional Information:

Visit stateofbabies.org

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