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# PRENATAL-TO-3: TRANSLATING THE SCIENCE AND EVIDENCE TO STATE POLICY

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2020

2:00 PM ET / 1:00 PM CT / NOON MT / 11:00 AM PT



# ABOUT NCSL

- National bi-partisan membership organization
  - 7,383 legislators and all legislative staff
  - Offices in Denver and Washington, D.C.
- NCSL is committed to the success of all legislators and staff. Our mission is to:
  - Improve the quality and effectiveness of state legislatures.
  - Promote policy innovation and communication among state legislatures.
  - Ensure state legislatures a strong, cohesive voice in the federal system.

## NCSL Outreach in 2018

**NCSL interacted with legislators and staff 20,307 times\***

\* Represents an increase over 2017

**5,091**

Legislators, staff and others at the Los Angeles Legislative Summit  
**796** legislator attendees  
(475 Democrats, 321 Republicans)  
**722** legislative staff attendees



**2,848**

Information and research requests answered for you

**255**

State visits, technical assistance visits, in-state trainings and testimonies provided to you.\*

NCSL connected with more than **1,929\*** legislators and staff during 51 state visits, and **7,085\*** legislators and staff on 204 technical and training visits.



**106**

Additional in-person meetings that you attended\*  
**1,459** legislator attendees  
(664 Democrats, 754 Republicans)\*  
**1,537** legislative staff attendees\*

**14,098,840**

Visits to the NCSL website\*

**417**

Blogs posted\*

**291,540**

Blog views\*



**62**

Policy and training webinars that you attended  
**268** legislator attendees  
(154 Democrats, 111 Republicans)  
**3,538** legislative staff attendees\*

**3,697**

Downloads of the NCSL Events mobile app\*



**23,524**

Downloads of the NCSL podcast, Our American States\*

**1,700**

Peak subscribers to the podcast, an increase of **48%** since Dec. 2017\*



**125**

Legislators and staff quoted in *State Legislatures* magazine



**82**

Printed reports and LegisBriefs were provided to you\*

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSOR



This webinar was made possible with funding from the Pritzker Children's Initiative



Report | [From Pregnancy to Postpartum: The Effects of Maternal Depression on Mothers, Infants and Toddlers](#)



Web Page | [Prenatal-to-Three Policies](#)

Brief | [Strong Beginnings, Successful Lives: A Prenatal-to-Three Policy Guidebook for Legislators](#)

Symposium | [How State Policymakers Can Improve Outcomes for Infants and Toddlers](#)



# CYNTHIA OSBORNE



- Associate Dean at The University of Texas at Austin LBJ School of Public Affairs
- Founder and director of the Child and Family Research Partnership
- Teaching and research interests include:
  - poverty and inequality
  - family and child wellbeing
  - early childhood
  - Fatherhood
  - family demography
- [cosborne@prc.utexas.edu](mailto:cosborne@prc.utexas.edu)

February 20, 2020

National Conference of State Legislatures Webinar

# **PRENATAL-TO-3: TRANSLATING THE SCIENCE & EVIDENCE TO STATE POLICY**

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*Strengthening the Earliest Years through Research and Collaboration*

**CYNTHIA OSBORNE, Ph.D.**

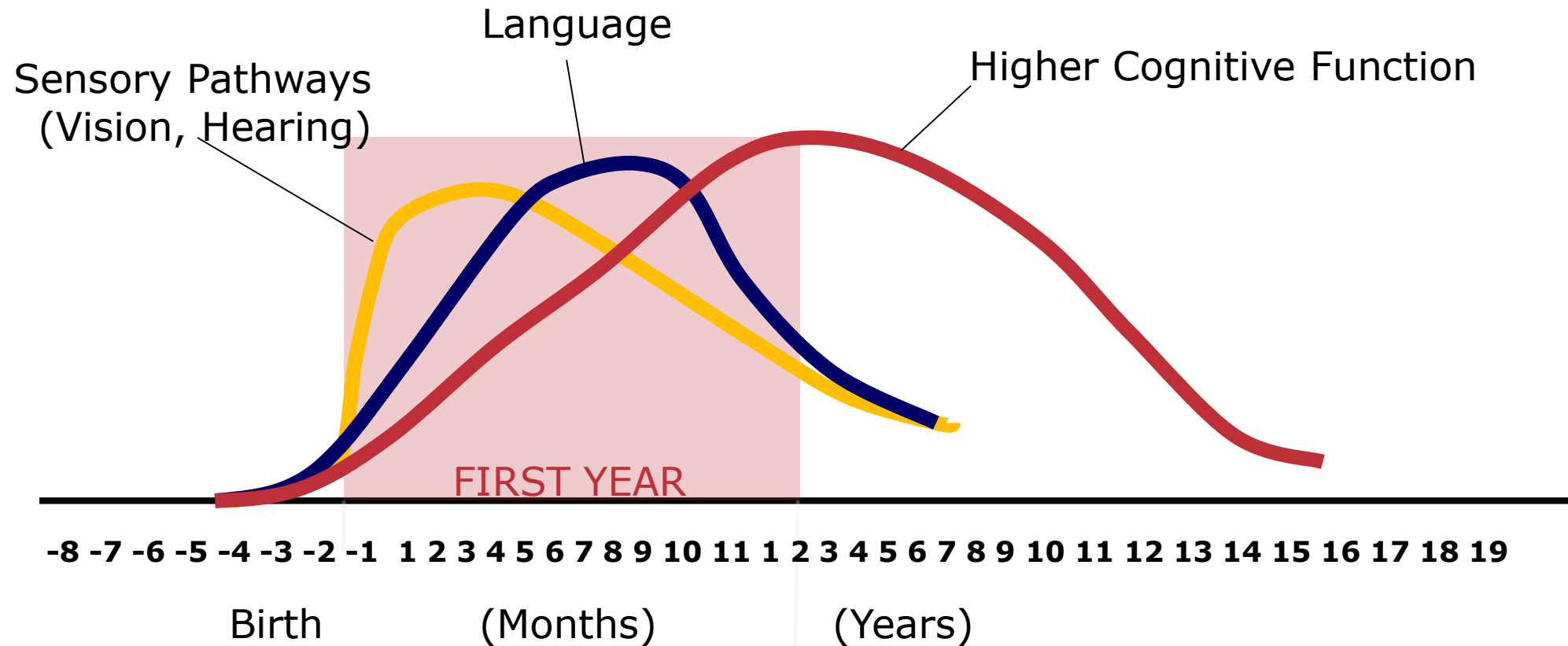
Associate Dean for Academic Strategies, LBJ School of Public Affairs, The University of Texas at Austin  
Director, Child and Family Research Partnership and Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center



# Our Earliest Experiences Shape Our Lives

- Our brain is the only organ that is not fully developed when we are born – it is expecting input!
- The most rapid and sensitive period of brain development is during the prenatal to age three period (PN-3)
- The PN-3 period lays the foundation for all future learning, behavior, and health
- Science is very clear on what children need to thrive, and that exposure to early adversity has long-lasting harmful effects

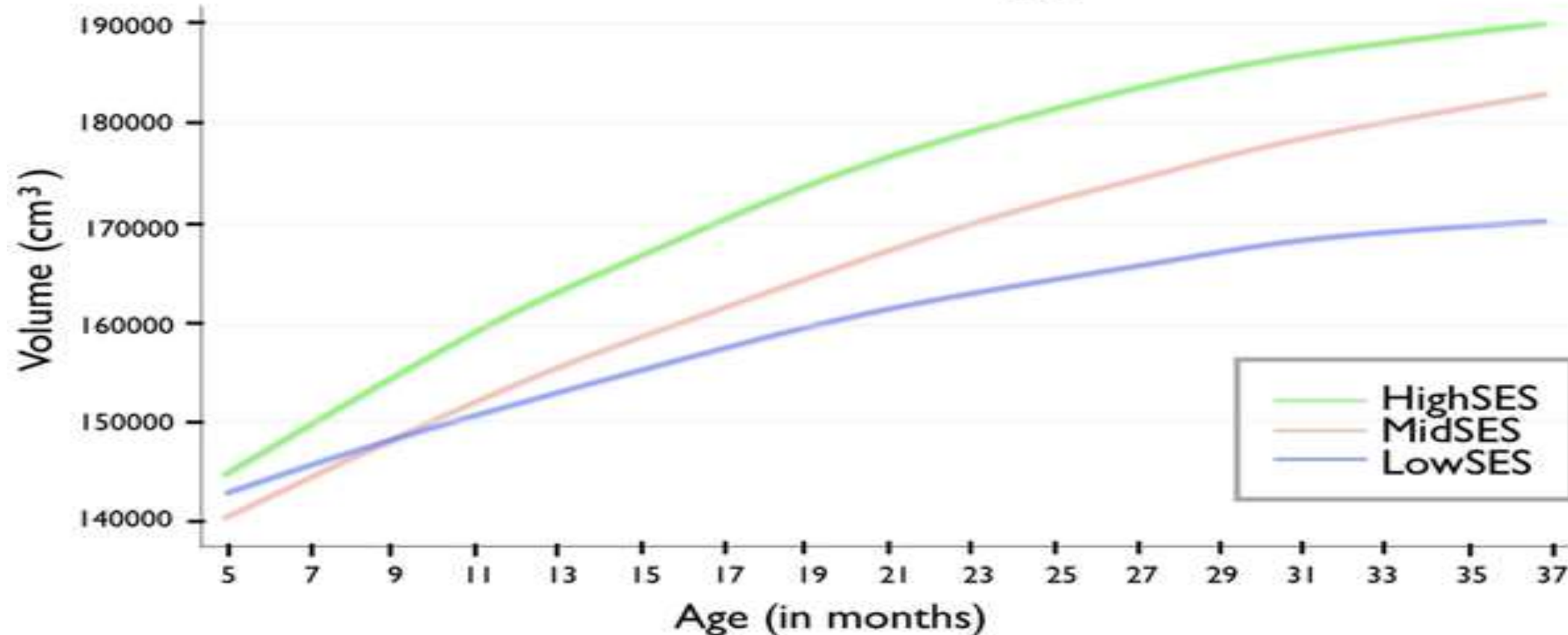
# Plasticity and Critical Periods





# Your Brain on Poverty!

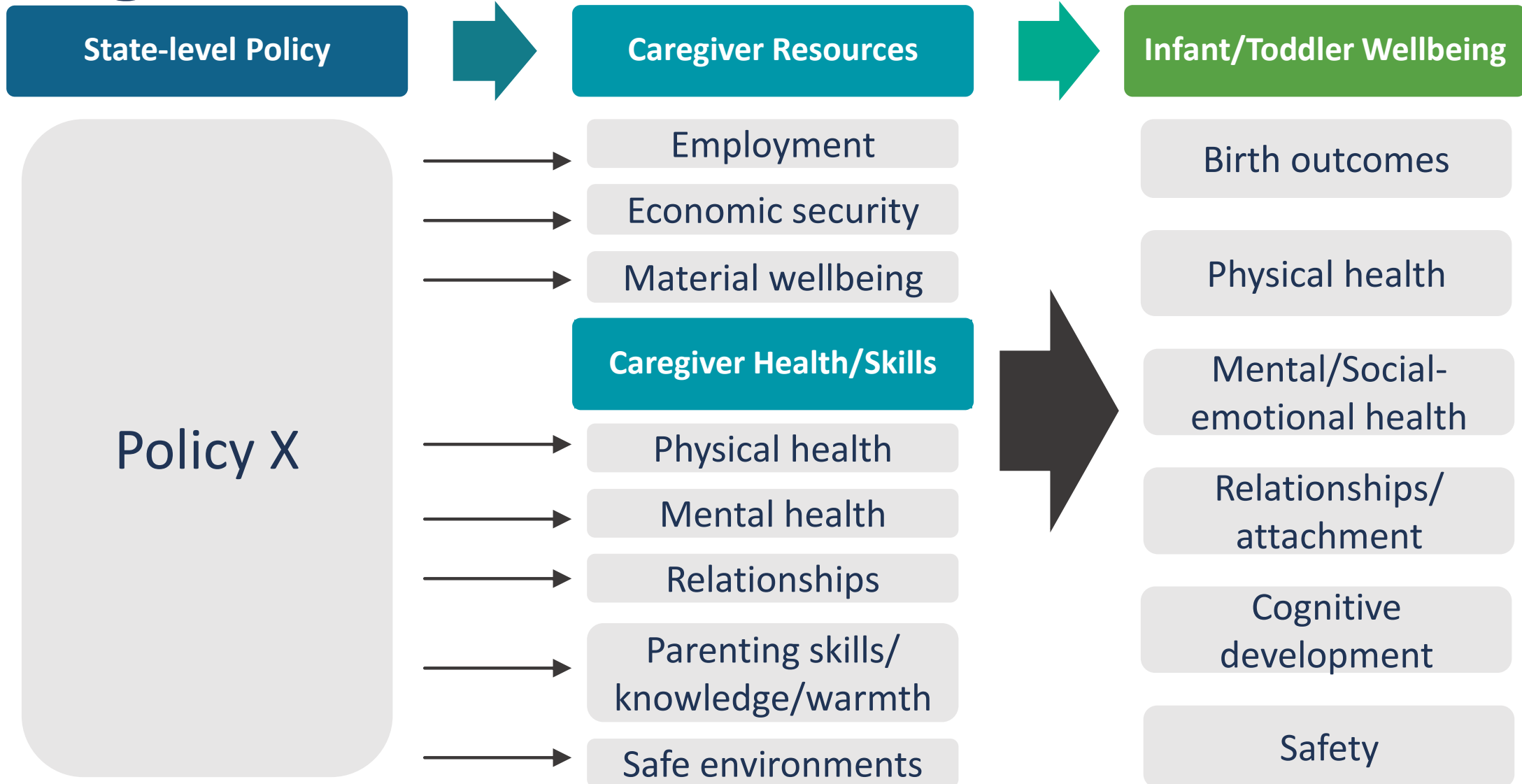
## Frontal Gray Matter



# Children Can Thrive!

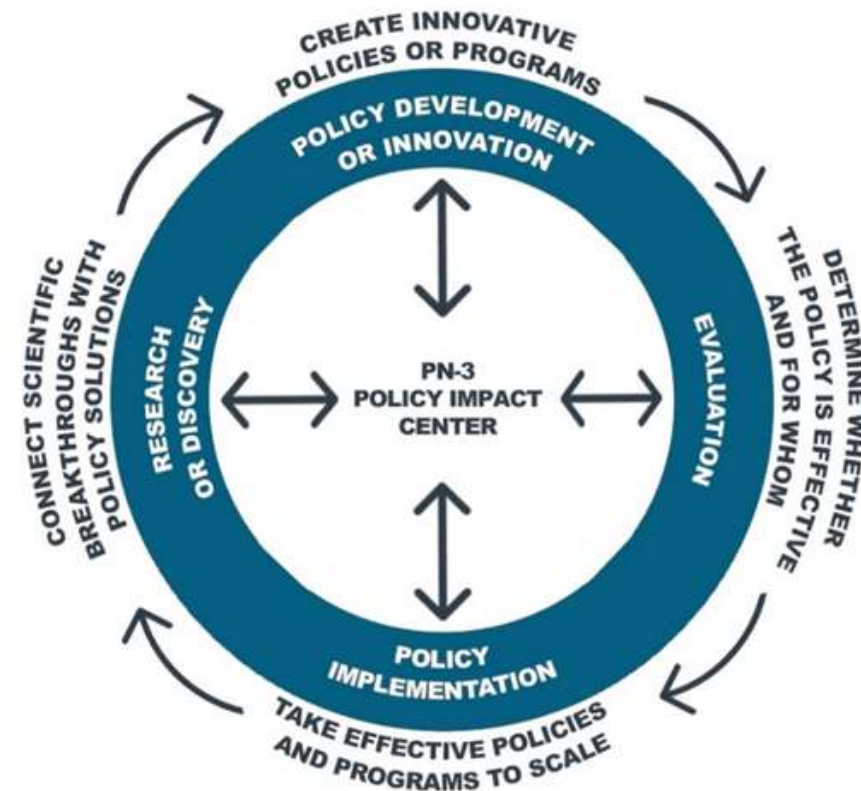
- A strong attachment to at least one loving, safe, caring, stable adult can offset many of the negative effects of adversity
- Stimulating brain growth early is “simple” – and parents want to support their children
- Parents need resources, skills, health, and social connections
- Policies can help to support families and their children to reduce stressors, increase stability, and foster safety

# Logic model



# Goals of the Prenatal-to-3 Policy Impact Center

- Provide evidence of the most effective strategies to bring the science of the developing child to life through policy
- Be a trusted resource for states as they develop and implement policies to strengthen the PN-3 period
- Be an authoritative source of information for the field on the evidence of what we know and what we must learn about effective PN-3 policies
- Foster the exchange of information between policy, research, and practice



# Focus

## FOCUS AREAS



Healthy Beginnings



Supported Families



High-Quality Care &  
Learning

To ensure children are on track for healthy development by age three, it is essential that programs and policies start early so that:

- Infants are born healthy to healthy parents,
- Parents have the necessary resources and skills to care for their child, and
- Families have access to affordable, high-quality child care options.

# Guiding principles of the Impact Center

1. Investing in children in the earliest years is essential for their healthy development. We must invest in children's families and the institutions that serve them to promote the health and wellbeing of infants and toddlers.
2. We should strive to close persistent disparities in outcomes between race and ethnic groups and by socioeconomic status.
3. We are guided by evidence, but mindful and honest about the limits of the research base. We want to encourage the adoption of effective policies AND support and evaluate innovative strategies to strengthen children and families.

# Primary resources provided by the Impact Center

1. Prenatal-to-3 Policy Evidence Review
2. Prenatal-to-3 State Policy Roadmap
3. Prenatal-to-3 Policy  $\leftrightarrow$  Research Exchange
4. Prenatal-to-3 Policy Research Agenda

# Prenatal-to-3 Policy Evidence Review

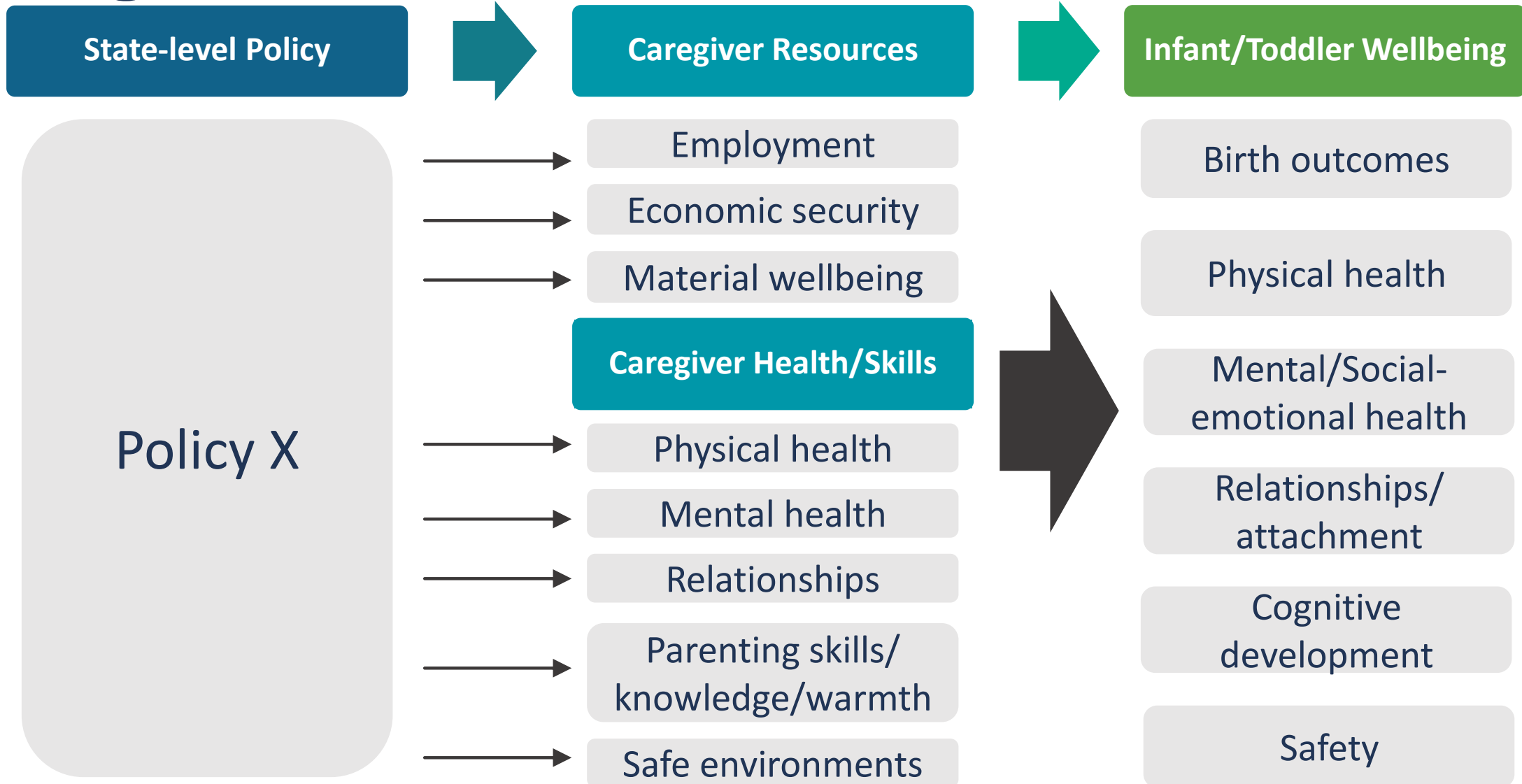
- Clearinghouse of social policies and the evidence of their impact on PN-3 outcomes
- Authoritative assessment of the policy's effectiveness
- Informs selection of policies for the PN-3 State Policy Roadmap
- Existing clearinghouses largely focus on rating programs, not policies



## 3 Criteria for Selecting Policies for Review

1. Policy must intend to strengthen parents' or caregivers' ability to care for their infant or toddler
2. Policy must have state leverage. State policies take several forms:
  - Fund an evidence-based program (e.g. Home Visiting)
  - Implement a federal policy (e.g. SNAP)
  - Develop a state-specific policy (e.g. Paid Family Leave)
3. Policy must have an evidence base

# Logic model



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# Examples of policies for review

## Healthy Beginnings

- Health insurance
- Targeted screenings for children and families
- Universal screenings for children and families
- Strategies to reduce maternal mortality and morbidity

## Supported Families

- Paid family leave
- State EITC
- State minimum wage
- Fair work scheduling
- SNAP participation
- Evidence-based home visiting programs

## High-Quality Care and Learning

- Child care ratios
- Child care subsidies
- ECE workforce compensation
- ECE workforce qualifications
- QRIS elements

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# Overall Conclusions of Policy Effectiveness

<b>Overall Support for Policy Effectiveness</b>	<b>Definition</b>
<b>STRONG</b>	Positive or mostly positive impacts
<b>MODERATE</b>	Mostly positive or mixed impacts
<b>PROMISING</b>	Trending positive impacts
<b>NEEDS FURTHER STUDY</b>	Insufficient evidence of impacts
<b>NULL</b>	Trending null or predominantly null impacts
<b>NEGATIVE</b>	Negative or predominantly negative impacts

# Prenatal-to-3 State Policy Roadmap

- Identifies a discrete list of policies that have a strong evidence base for promoting healthy beginnings, supporting families, and providing quality care environments for children
- Measures and track states' progress toward policy adoption, and corresponding implementation and outcome measures
- Unique features of the PN-3 State Policy Roadmap:
  - Indicator selection is driven by evidence
  - Provides states direction and guidance on how to improve outcomes
  - Helps states determine whether worse outcomes are driven by lack of policy, limited implementation, or other demographic- or geographic-related characteristics of the state
  - Tracks states' progress over time

# Policy Roadmap Example: State EITC

State-level policy	Policy Adoption	Policy Implementation Measure	Caregiver Outcome Measure	Child Outcome Measure
State has adopted a refundable state Earned Income Tax Credit policy	Yes/No: Description of policy adoption status	Children under age 3 with unmarried mothers in the civilian labor force	Median household income for households with children under age 3	Children under age 3 living in families with incomes below 100% of the Federal Poverty Line



# Policy Roadmap Example: State EITC

Policy adoption status: State has adopted a refundable state EITC policy

State	Adoption Status
Florida	<b>NO:</b> No state income tax; no state EITC
South Carolina	<b>NO:</b> Non-refundable at 62.5% Federal EITC <sup>1</sup>
Nebraska	<b>YES:</b> Refundable at 10% Federal EITC
New Jersey	<b>YES:</b> Refundable at 40% Federal EITC

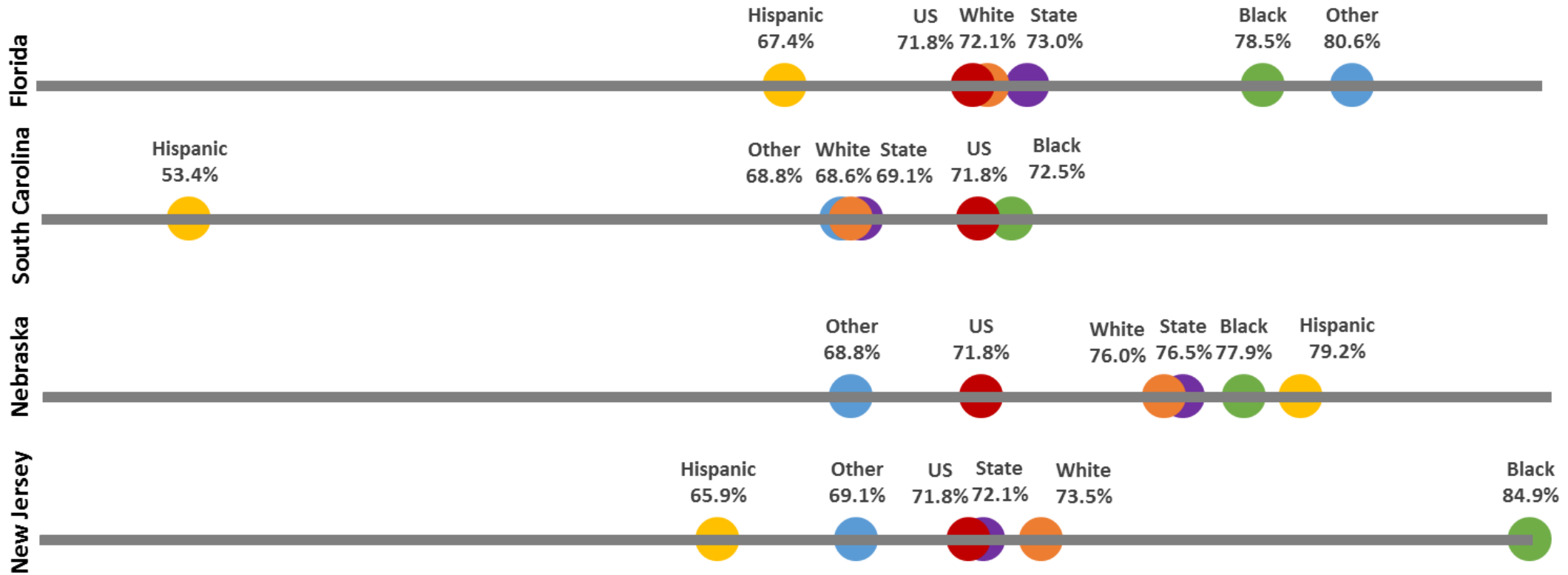
*Source: Tax Credits for Workers and Their Families and Internal Revenue Service, as of tax year 2020*

<sup>1</sup>*South Carolina adopted a non-refundable state EITC at 125% of the federal credit in 2018, but it is being phased in over six years. For tax year 2020, the credit amount is 62.5% of the federal credit. South Carolina Department of Revenue*

# Policy Roadmap Example: State EITC

Policy Implementation Measure:

Percentage of Children Under Age 3 with Unmarried Mothers in the Civilian Labor Force



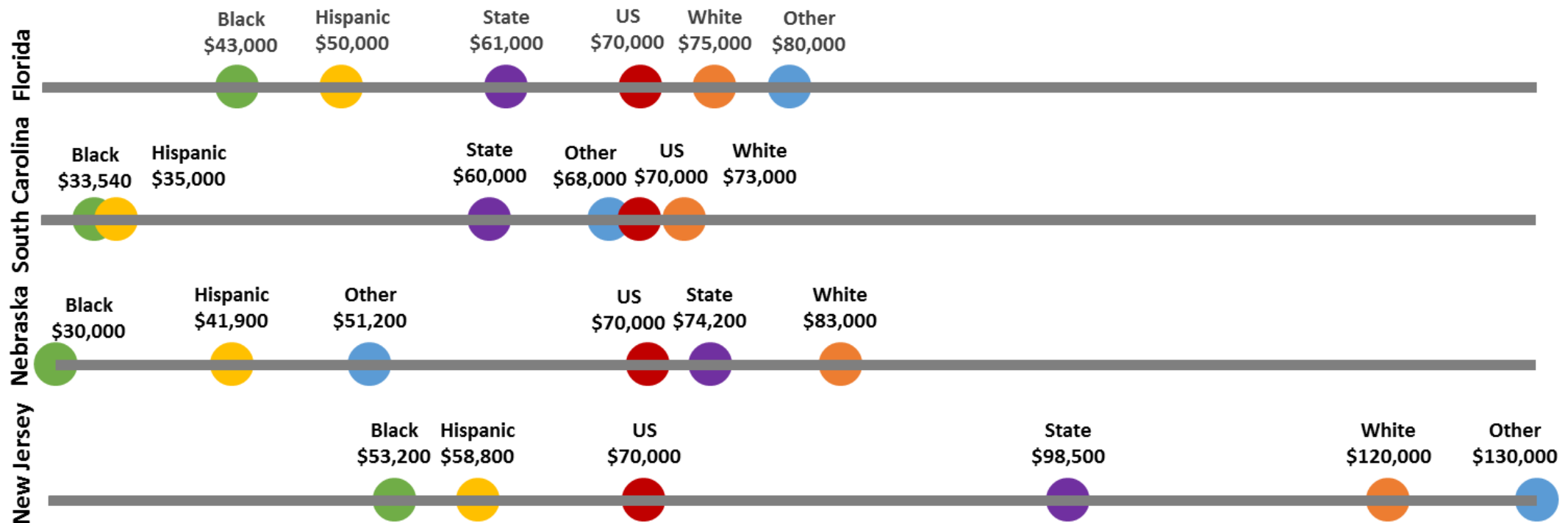
Note: Axis values range from 50% to 85%

Source: Census Bureau's 2018 American Community Survey using the IPUMS data sample

# Policy Roadmap Example: State EITC

## Caregiver Outcome Measure:

Median Household Income for Households with Children Under Age 3



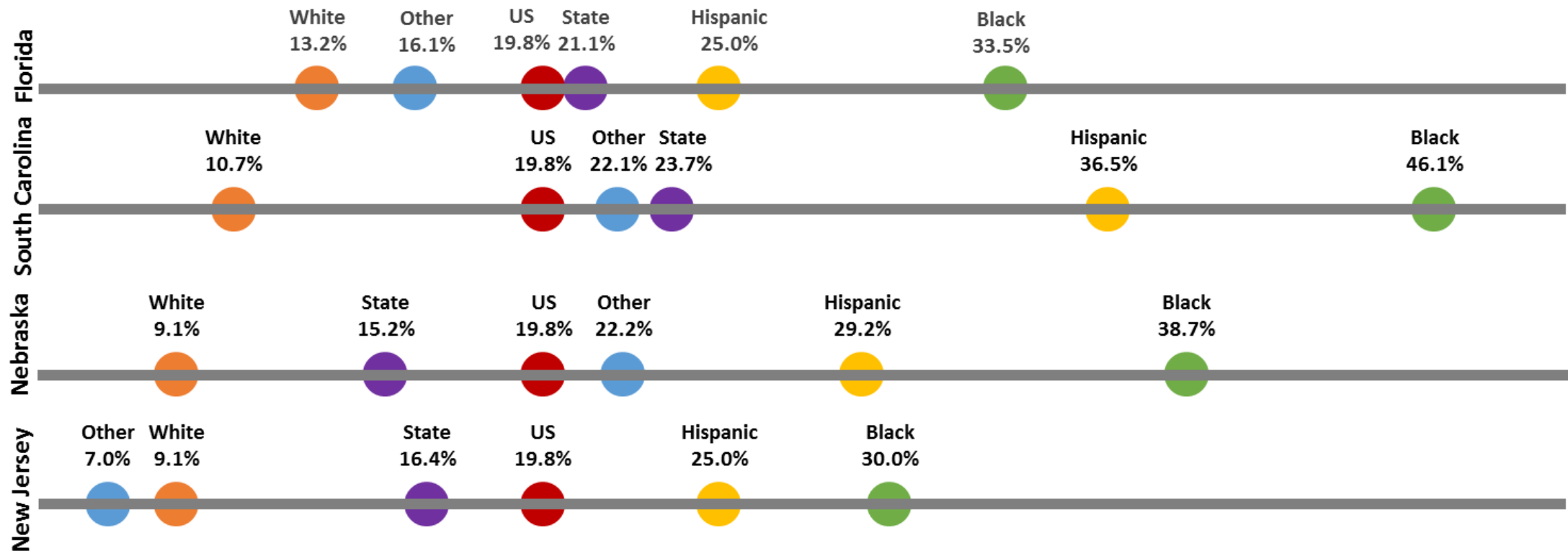
Note: Axis values range from \$30K to \$130K

Source: Census Bureau's 2018 American Community Survey using the IPUMS data sample

# Policy Roadmap Example: State EITC

## Child Outcome Measure:

Percentage of Children Under Age 3 in Families with Incomes below 100% of the FPL



Note: Axis values range from 5% to 50%

Source: Census Bureau's 2018 American Community Survey using the IPUMS data sample

# Prenatal-to-3 Policy ↔ Research Exchange

- Developing close relationships with PN-3 leaders in all states to document:
  - What states are doing
  - What states are planning
  - What challenges states are facing
- Share information among states to learn from one another
- Share information with academics to increase relevance of research
- Information will inform updates on states' progress in the Roadmap
- Annual summit to bridge policy and research

# Prenatal-to-3 Policy Research Agenda

- Identify the promising policies and innovations that need further study
- Collaboratively build a PN-3 research agenda for the next 5 years
- Prioritize strengthening equity and reducing disparities when developing research questions

# National Advisory Council

- Comprised of recognized experts in the PN-3 field broadly, but many also have targeted influence (e.g., in ECE or maternal health)
- Serve as advisors and validators for the Impact Center and PN-3 State Policy Roadmap
- Help build connections across the field and identify ways the Impact Center can boost their efforts and others
- Will review Roadmap policy evidence, indicators, and rankings
- Members have standing and expertise in the field and represent diverse opinions and populations
- May also create subcommittees for each policy or policy area, after policies are selected

# NAC Members

**Christina Altmayer** – First 5 LA

**Joia Adele Crear-Perry, MD** – National Birth Equity Collaboration

**Libby Doggett, PhD** – former U.S. Department of Education

**Greg Duncan, PhD** – University of California at Irvine

**Janet Froetscher** – J.B. and M.K. Pritzker Family Foundation

**Janis Gonzales, MD** – New Mexico Department of Health

**A.J. Griffin** – former Oklahoma State Senator

**Thomas Hedrick** – former AVANCE Inc. CEO

**Iheoma Iruka, PhD** – HighScope Educational Research Foundation

**Brenda Jones Harden, PhD** – University of Maryland

**Ruth Kagi** – former Washington State Representative

**John B. King, JD, PhD** – The Education Trust

**David Lakey, MD** – The University of Texas System

**Joan Lombardi, PhD** – former U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

**Michael Lu, MD** – UC Berkeley School of Public Health

**Tammy Mann, PhD** – The Campagna Center

**Ron Mincy, PhD** – Columbia University

**Geoff Nagle, PhD** – Erikson Institute

**Jessie Rasmussen** – Buffett Early Childhood Fund

**Jack Shonkoff, MD** – Center on the Developing Child at Harvard University

**Margaret Spellings** - Texas 2036

**Jim Spurlino** – Spurlino Materials

**David Willis, MD** – Center for the Study of Social Policy



# What's Next

- Continue conducting comprehensive reviews of PN-3 relevant policies
- Actively connect with leaders in each state

## Save the Date: Sept. 14-15, 2020 (Austin)

- Inaugural conference bringing together state legislators, researchers, and the early childhood field to:
  - Identify ground-breaking science that informs policy
  - Discuss the most effective state-level policies that bring to life the science of the developing child
  - Explore what states are currently doing to strengthen the earliest years
  - Launch the PN-3 State Policy Roadmap

# Connect & Follow

**Website:** [pn3policy.org](https://pn3policy.org)

**Email:** [pn3policy@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:pn3policy@austin.utexas.edu)

**Twitter:** [@pn3policy](https://twitter.com/pn3policy) | [#pn3policy](https://twitter.com/pn3policy)

**Email Sign-up:** [mailchi.mp/austin.utexas.edu/pn3](https://mailchi.mp/austin.utexas.edu/pn3)





# Questions?



NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF STATE LEGISLATURES



Aug. 10-13

 **NCSL** 2020  
LEGISLATIVE SUMMIT

It's not too early to mark your calendar for the next NCSL Legislative Summit Aug. 10-13, 2020, in Indianapolis. Join your colleagues at this annual gathering of state lawmakers to explore innovative policy solutions, network and add to your legislative toolbox.

## Resources

- [Archived webinar](#)
- [ECE Legislative Tracking Database](#)
- [Early Childhood Policy Overview](#)
- [Quarterly Newsletters](#)
- [Pritzker Children's Initiative](#)
- [National Collaborative for Infants and Toddlers \(NCIT\) Online Solution Center](#)
- [Prenatal-to-Three Policy Impact Center](#)

Stay Connected



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