



Child Welfare Fellows &
Early Childhood Fellows
Virtual Convening

July 21, 2022 | 2 p.m. ET

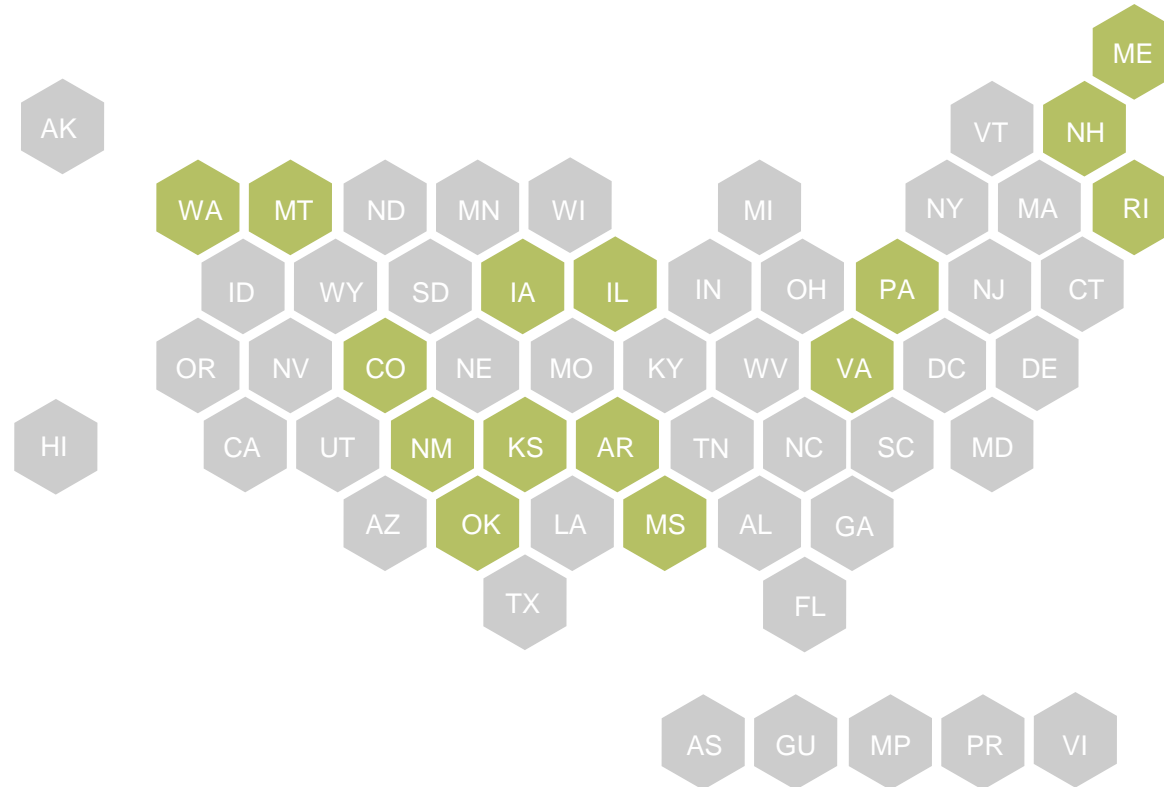
2022 NCSL Child Welfare Fellows (Cohort 1)



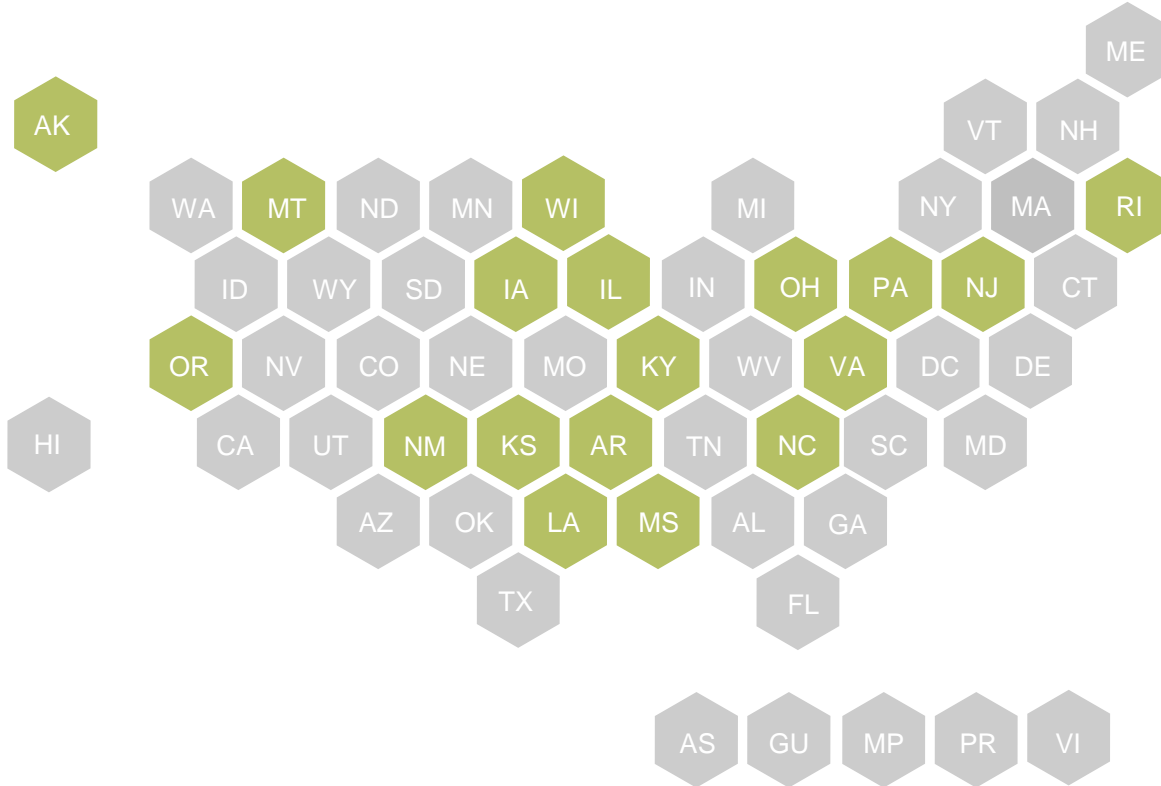
23 Fellows

- 22 legislators
- 1 legislative staff
- 15 states

Tag social media posts with **@NCSLorg** and use hashtag **#NCSLFellows**.



2022 NCSL Early Childhood Fellows (Cohort 10)



24 Fellows

- 22 legislators
- Two legislative staff
- 18 states

Tag social media posts with **@NCSLorg** and use hashtag **#NCSLFellows**.

Session Goals

Early Childhood Fellows | June 2022



Child Welfare Fellows | June 2022

Zero To Three Expert Presenters

Kim Keating



Senior Policy Research Analyst,
Federal Policy Team,
ZERO TO THREE

Jaclyn Szrom



Senior Policy Analyst, Infant-
Toddler Court Program,
ZERO TO THREE

Lindsay Calveri



Parent Leader for the National
Infant-Toddler Court Program

Data-informed Policies for Babies and Families

State of Babies Yearbook: 2022

and Strengthening Families with Infants and Toddlers:

A Policy Framework for States

National Conference of State Legislatures

Early Childhood and Child Welfare Fellows Webinar

July 21, 2022

POLLING QUESTION #1

What unique characteristic(s) of infants and toddlers makes policy planning for babies so important?

- a. Babies are born with pre-determined developmental trajectories that require early responses
- b. Babies' brains grow at a faster rate in their first 3 years than any later point in their lives
- c. Their parents need policies to teach them what their babies need
- d. Their foundation for future development, relationships, and learning is shaped from ages 0-3
- e. b and d



About the Yearbook...

- Takes a holistic look at the nation's babies with a sharp focus on equity
- Presents a snapshot – nationally and state-by-state – of how infants, toddlers, and their families are faring
- Pairs data with responsive policy options to serve as a tool for state policymakers and advocates
- Drawn from national datasets and in 2021 and 2022, includes RAPID-EC Survey's mid-pandemic findings





Good Health

- Health Care Access and Affordability
- Nutrition
- Maternal Health
- Child Health
- Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health



Strong Families

- Basic Needs
- Child Well-being and Resilience
- Supportive Policies

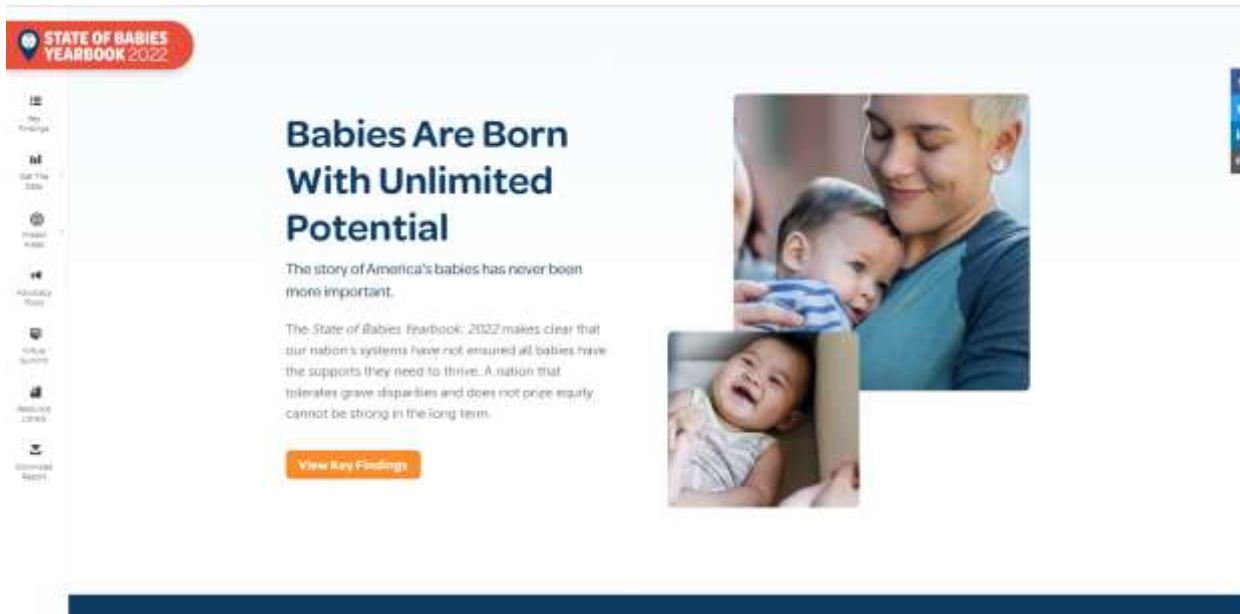


Positive Early Learning Experiences

- Activities that Support Early Learning
- Access to Early Learning Programs
- Elements that Support Child Care Quality
- Early Intervention

Get the latest data!

Visit the *State of Babies* website

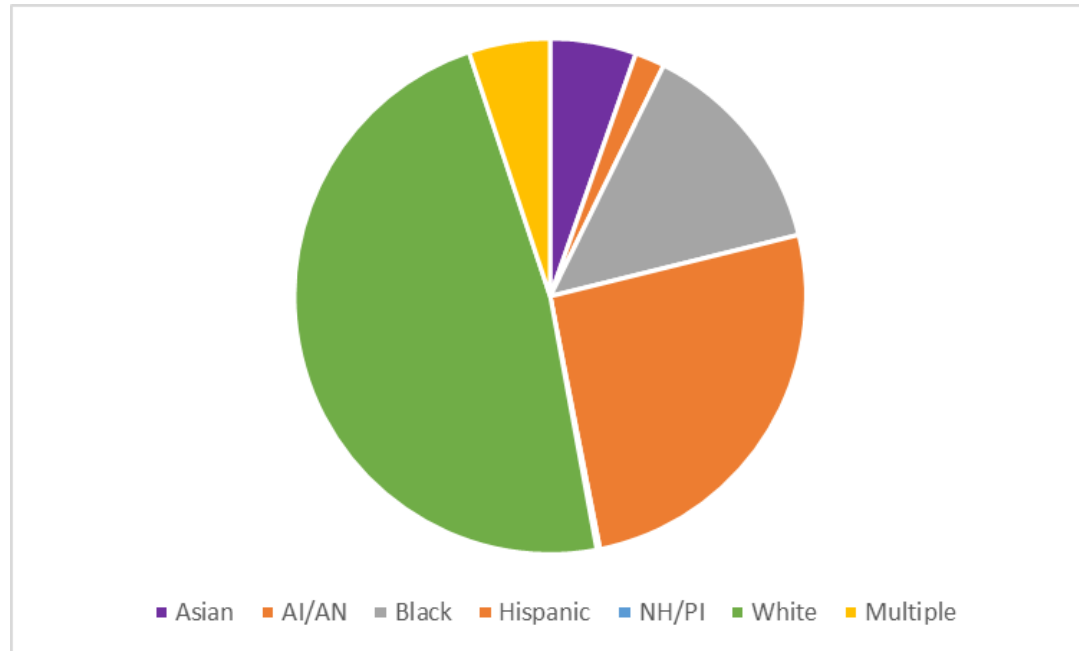


<https://stateofbabies.org>

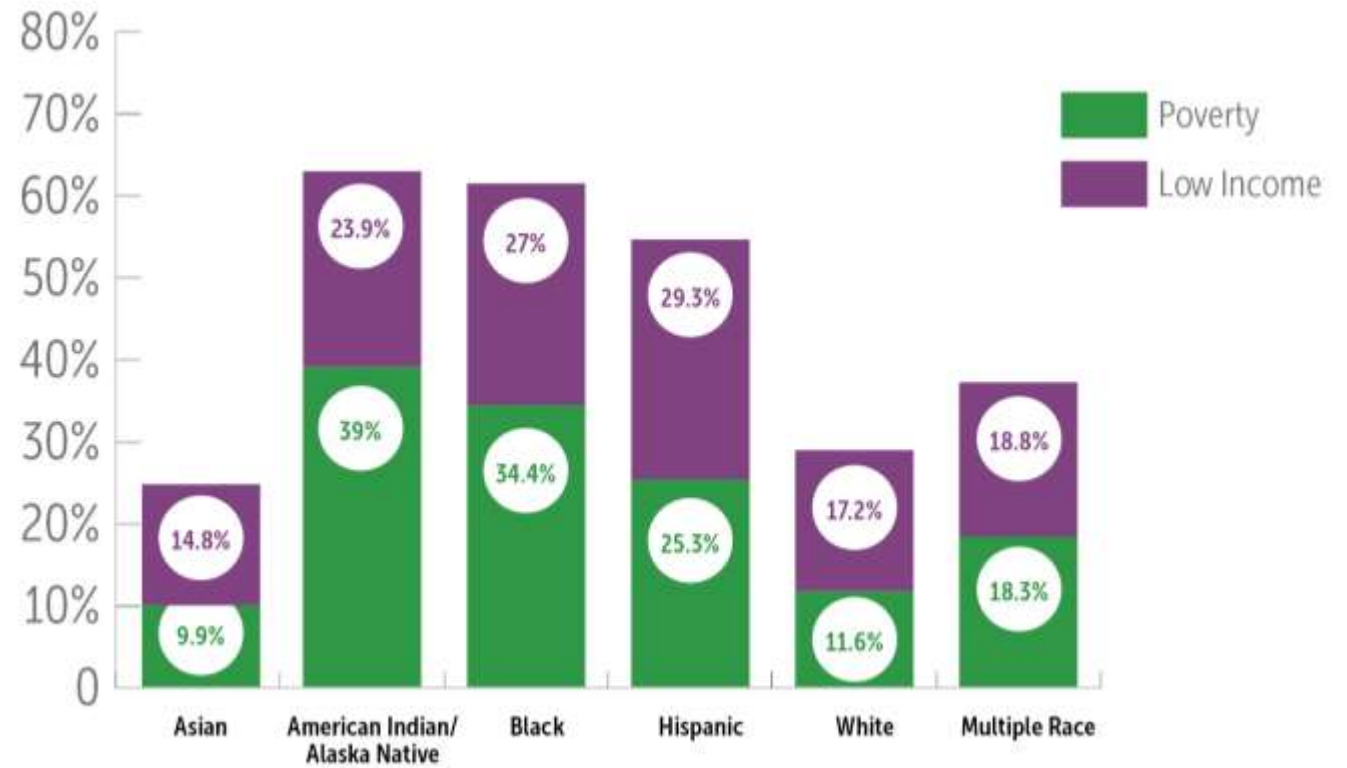
- Download the *Yearbook*
- View your state's profile
<https://stateofbabies.org/states/>
- Learn how all states are doing on specific indicators and policies in place
<https://stateofbabies.org/compare-indicators-across-states/>

Key Demographics

52% OF BABIES IN THE U.S. ARE CHILDREN OF COLOR



INTERSECTIONALITY OF RACE/ETHNICITY AND INCOME



Good Health

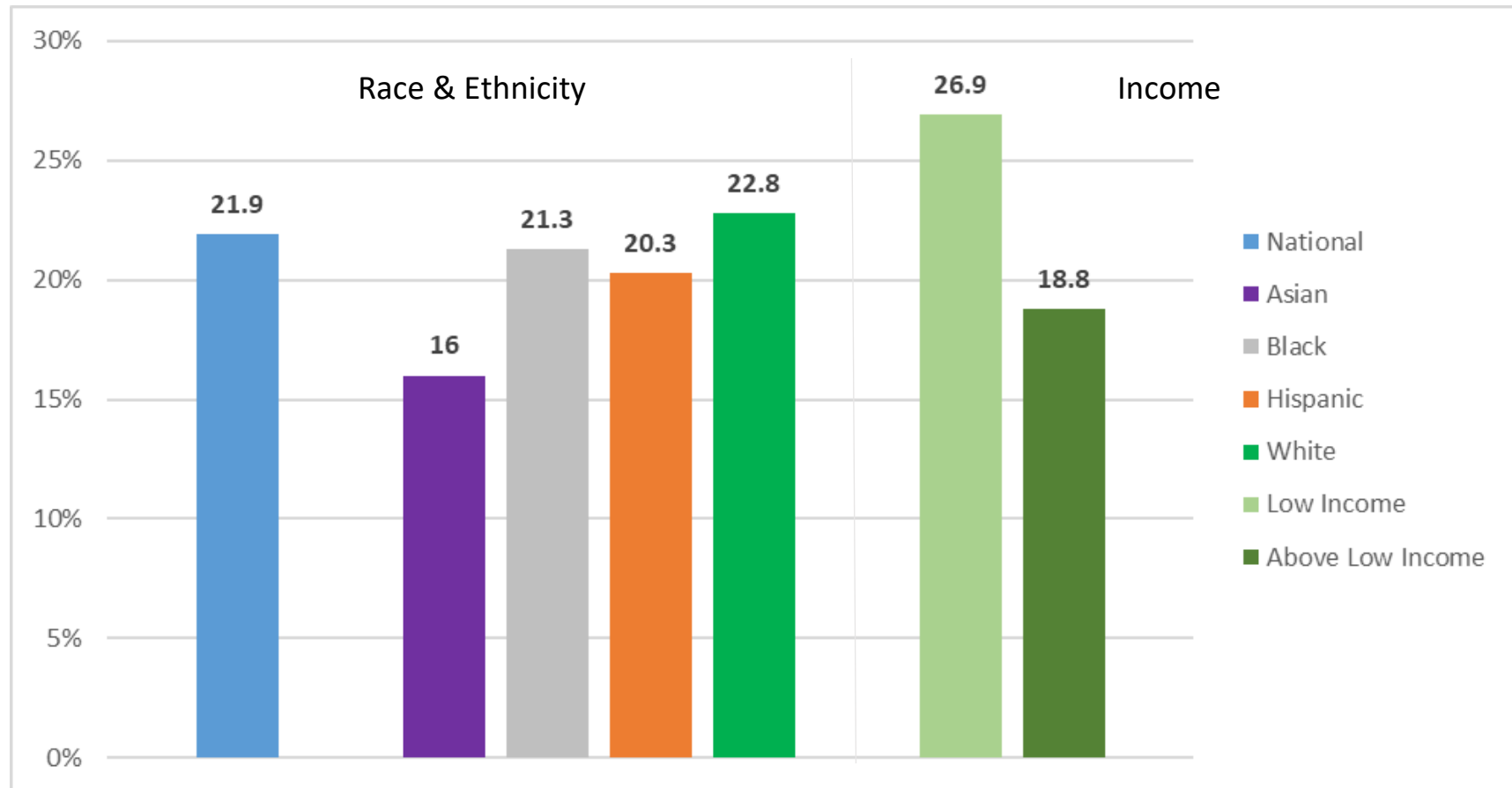




Mental Health



1 IN 5 MOTHERS REPORT LESS THAN OPTIMAL MENTAL HEALTH

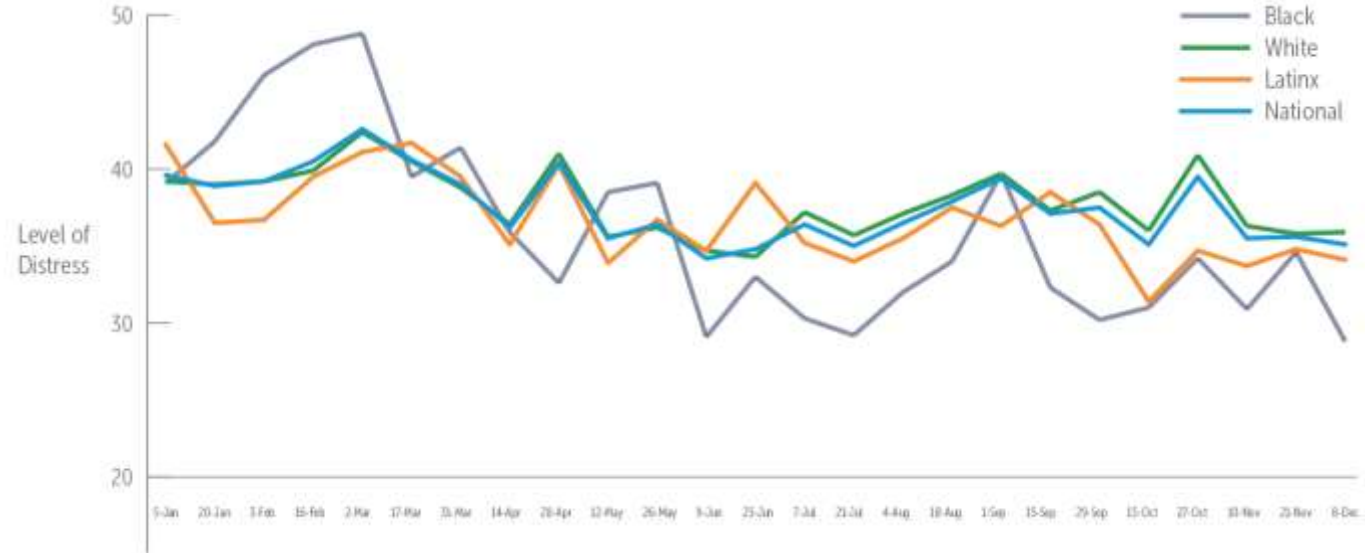




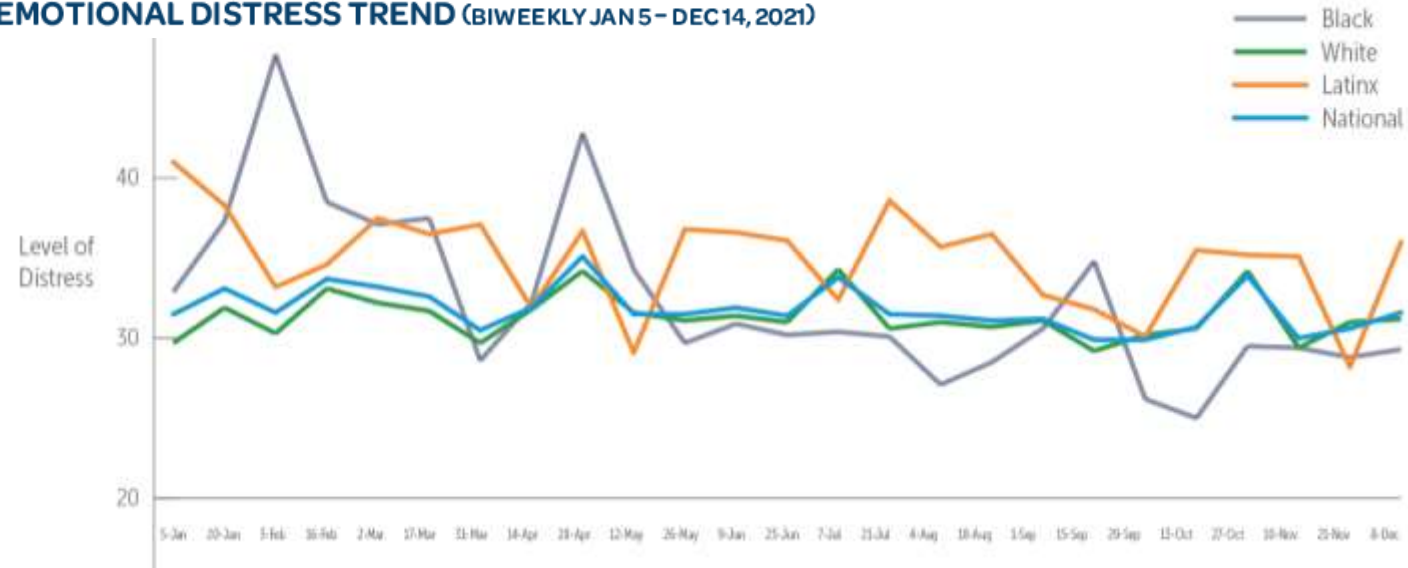
Mental Health



CAREGIVER EMOTIONAL DISTRESS TREND (BIWEEKLY JAN 5 - DEC 14, 2021)



CHILD EMOTIONAL DISTRESS TREND (BIWEEKLY JAN 5 - DEC 14, 2021)





Policies Supporting Maternal and Infant Mental Health

Most states' Medicaid plans cover critical maternal and IECMH services.

- 44 states *Allow, Recommend, or Require* maternal depression screening during well-child visits
- 43 states cover social-emotional screening for young children
- Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) services
 - 49 states cover at home
 - 46 states cover in pediatric/family medicine practices
 - 34 states cover in early childhood settings

Strong Families

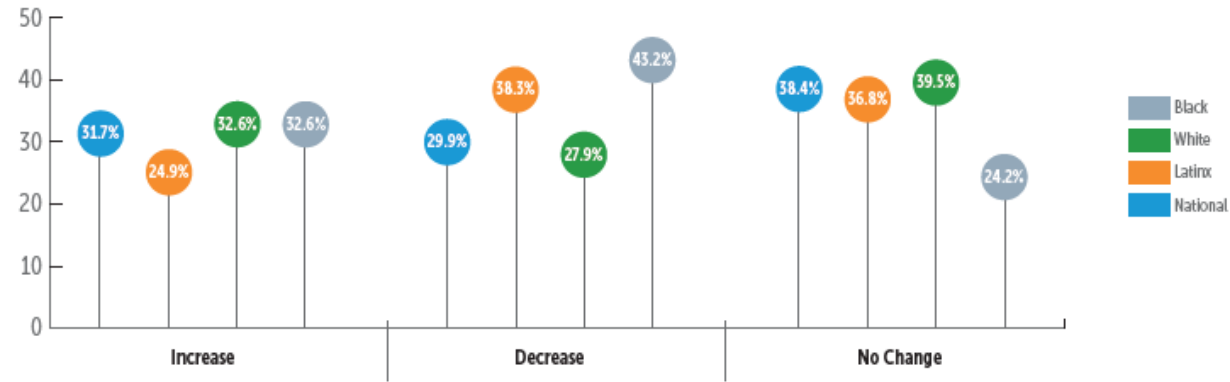


Strong Families: BASIC NEEDS



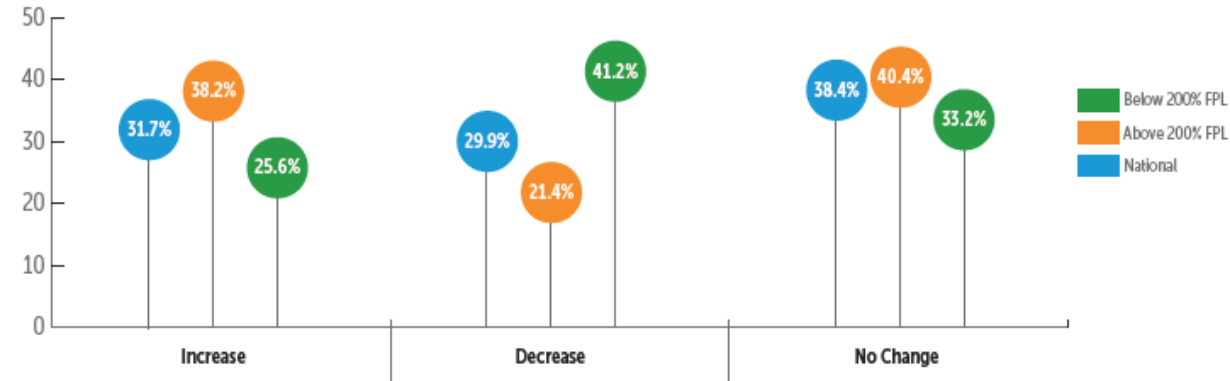
HOUSEHOLD INCOME CHANGE DURING COVID BY RACE AND ETHNICITY

Figure 14



HOUSEHOLD INCOME CHANGE DURING COVID BY INCOME LEVEL

Figure 15

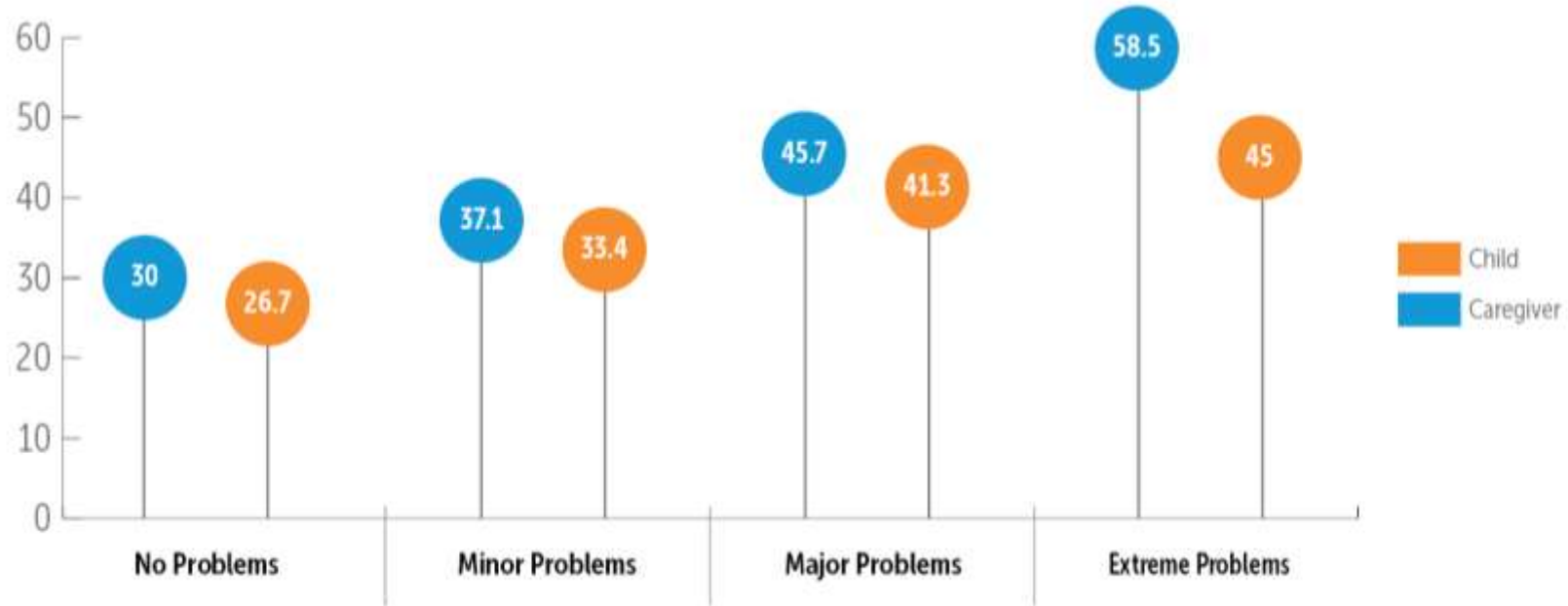


NOTE: Figure data based on the full sample of 3,869 families from the RAPID-EC survey between January 5 and December 14, 2021. Changes in income were self-reported by survey respondents.



Hardship Chain Reaction (Parent & Child)

EMOTIONAL DISTRESS BY LEVEL OF FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

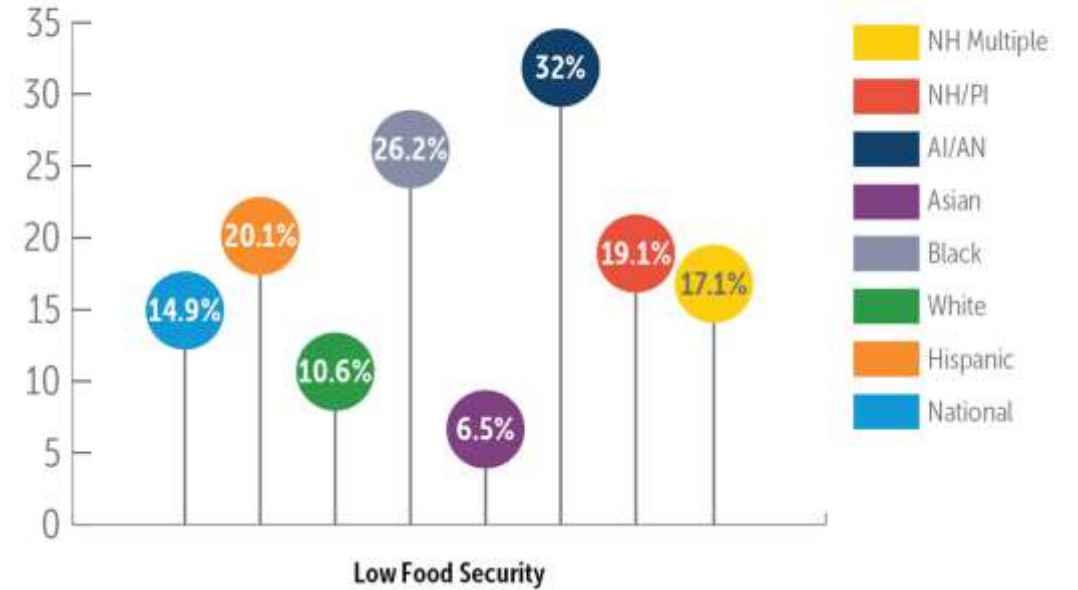


NOTE: Data on financial problems and caregiver/child distress were based on the full sample of 3,869 families from the RAPID-EC survey between January 5 and December 14, 2021. Emotional distress scores were calculated based on aggregated responses. Financial hardship was self-reported.

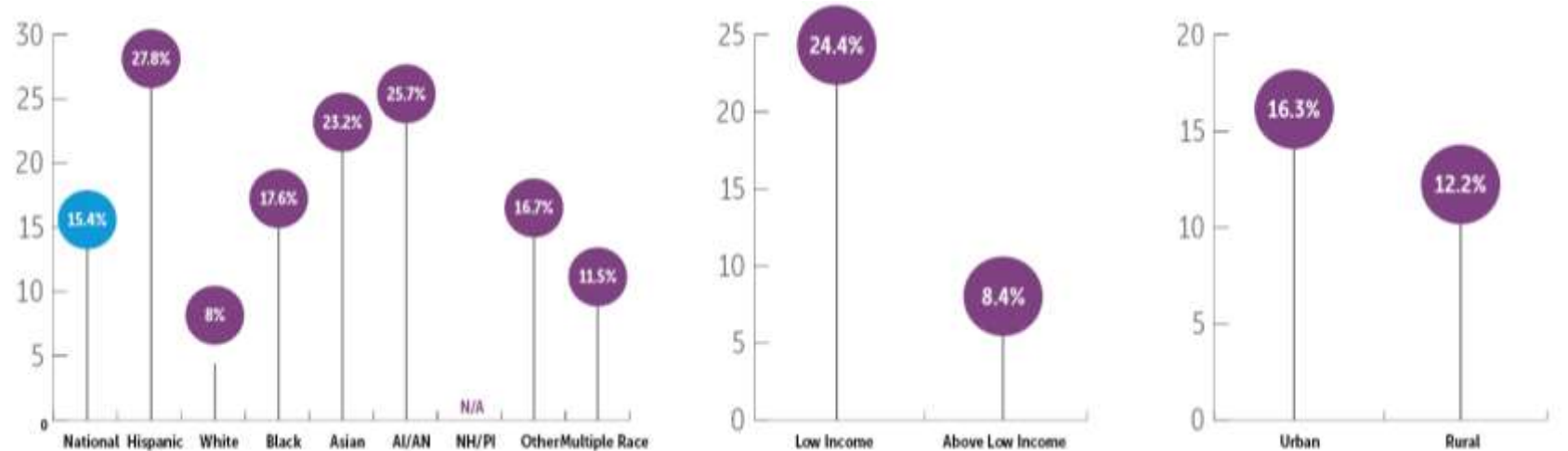


Strong Families: Material Hardship

FOOD INSECURITY BY RACE AND ETHNICITY Figure 13



BABIES LIVING IN CROWDED HOUSING





Childhood Adversities

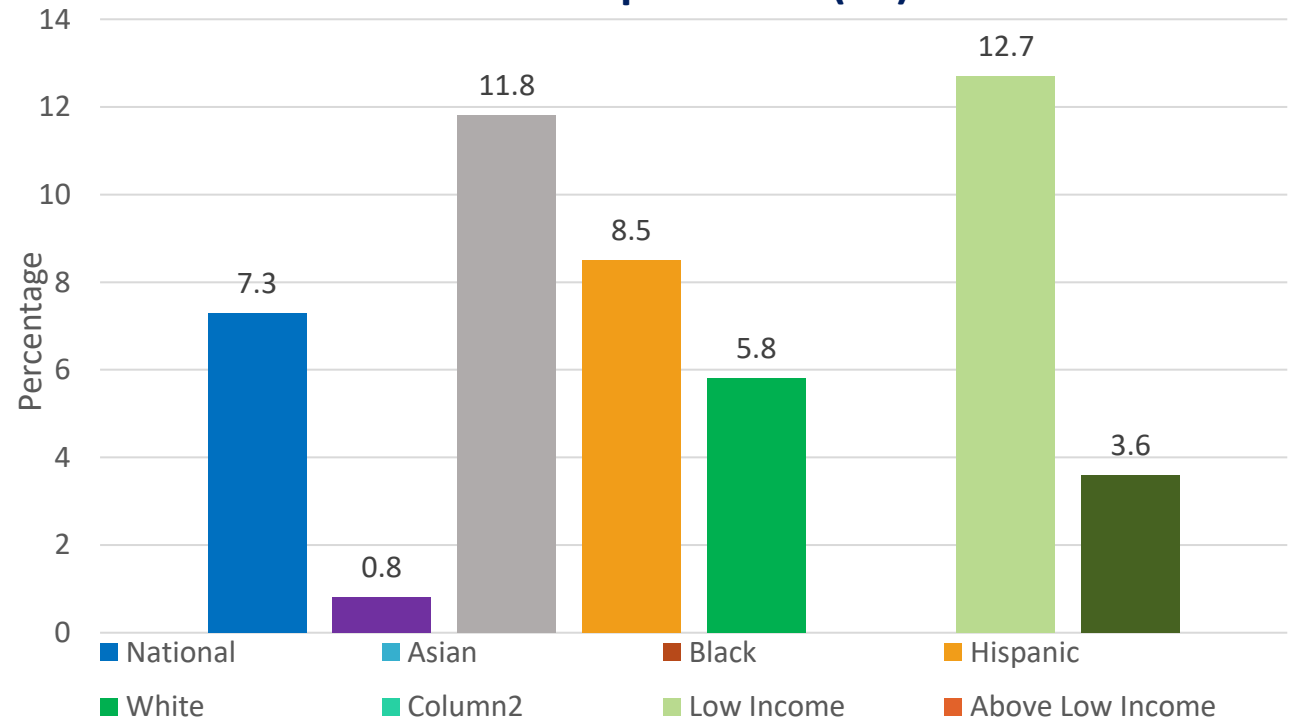
Adverse Childhood Experiences

- 1 in 5 babies (19.6%) has had one Adverse Childhood Experience
- 1 in 13 (7.3%) has had 2+ Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Stark differences can be observed both by race/ethnicity and income.

Maltreatment

- 15.9 per 1,000 children ages 0-2
- Incidence varies widely across states, from 2.2 (PA) – 39.3 (WV)
- 20 states with rates above 20

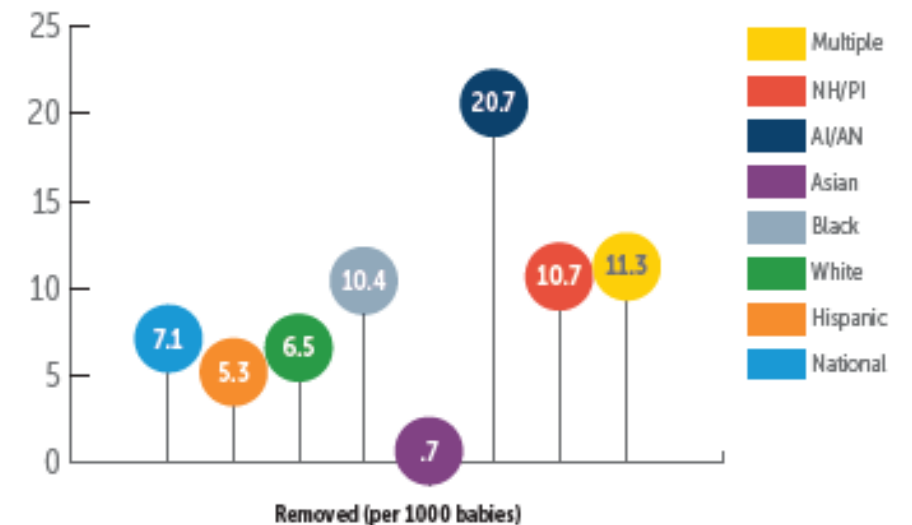
Adverse Experiences (2+)



Child Welfare Involvement

- Removals: 7.1 per 1,000
- Time in OOH placement length: 18.7% < 1 year
- Permanency outcome:
 - Adopted: 34.6%
 - Reunified: 48.1%
 - Guardian: 8.3%
 - Relative: 7.8%

BABIES REMOVED FROM HOME BY RACE AND ETHNICITY Figure 19



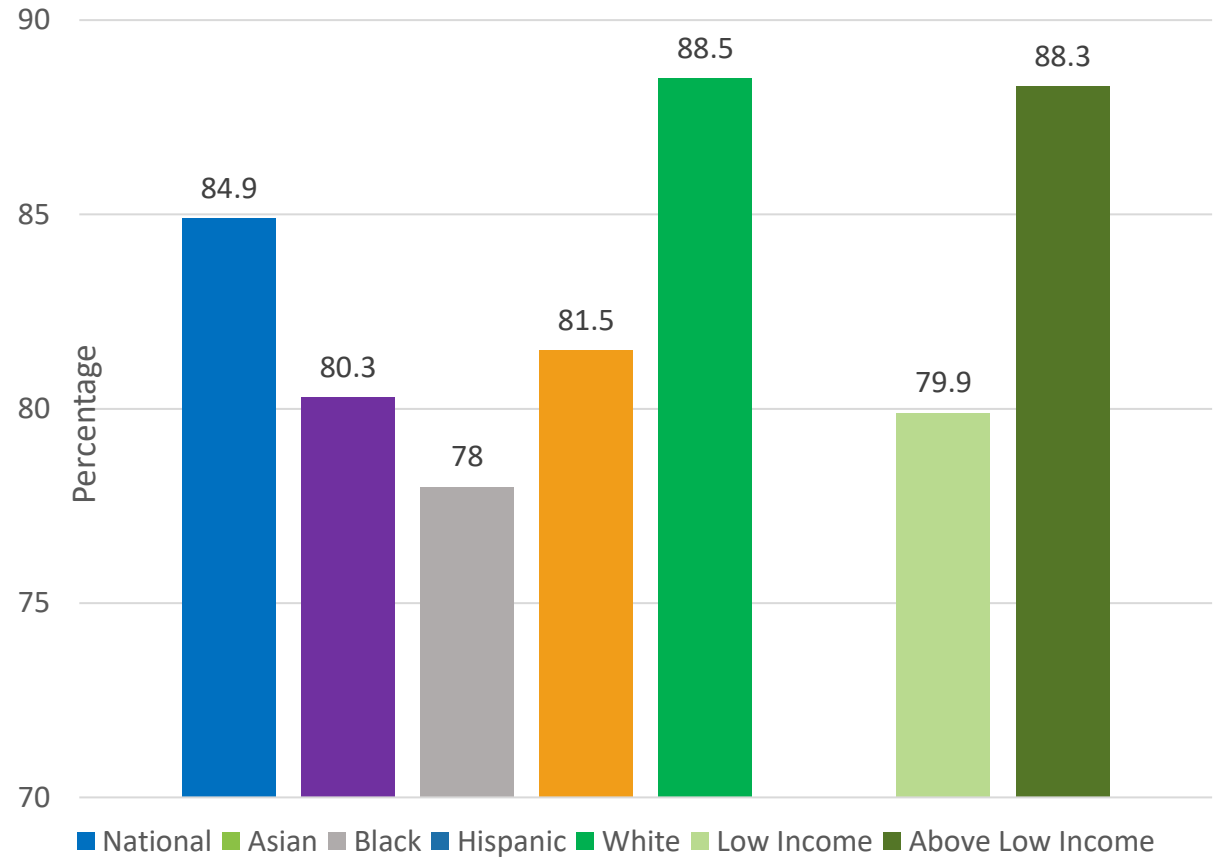
Family Resilience

Nearly 9 in 10 families with babies report being resilient.

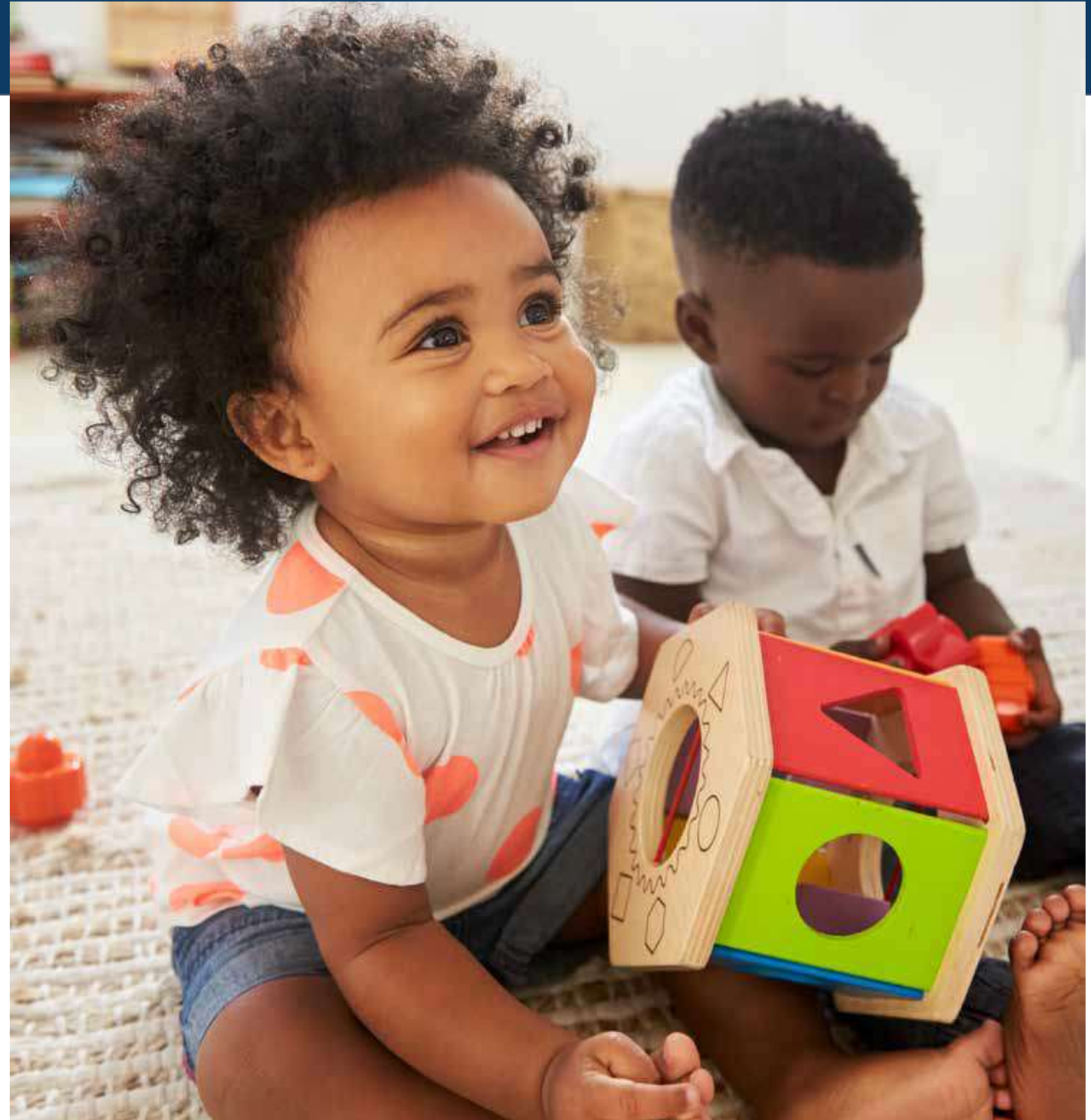
84.9% reported all or most of the time

When your family faces problems, how often are you likely to do each of the following?

1. Talk together about what to do
2. Work together to solve our problems
3. Know we have strengths to draw on
4. Stay hopeful even in difficult times



Positive Early Learning Experiences





Positive Early Learning Experiences



In 42 states, the cost of child care is more than **1/3** of single parent income.

Only **4.6%** of families who could benefit receive a Child Care and Development Fund Subsidy.





Positive Early Learning Experiences



Only 11% of babies in poverty are reached by Early Head Start.



Responsive policy options...

- ❑ Expanded health care coverage
- ❑ Infant and early childhood mental health
- ❑ Paid family medical leave and sick leave
- ❑ Enhanced, fully refundable Child Tax Credit
- ❑ Comprehensive child care system
- ❑ Family-strengthening child welfare system



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National Infant-Toddler Court Program: Policy Framework and Resources



Our Supporters



- This program is supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of an award totaling \$19,581,161 with 0 percent financed with non-governmental sources. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by HRSA, HHS, or the U.S. Government. For more information, please visit [HRSA.gov](https://www.hrsa.gov).
- ZERO TO THREE deeply appreciates Ballmer Group for its generous support of our work to scale the Safe Babies approach. We'd like to especially thank Connie Ballmer for her vision and commitment to transforming the child welfare system so that all babies thrive. Ballmer Group is committed to improving economic mobility for children and families in the United States, funding leaders and organizations that have demonstrated the ability to reshape opportunity and reduce systemic inequities.



National Infant-Toddler Court Program (ITCP)

- The ITCP is operated by ZERO TO THREE in partnership with:
 - The American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law
 - Center for the Study of Social Policy
 - National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges
 - RTI International
- The ITCP is supporting wide-scale dissemination of the Safe Babies Court Team approach:
 - Applying the science of early childhood development in meeting the urgent needs of infants and toddlers and strengthening their families and communities



ITCP Sites and States

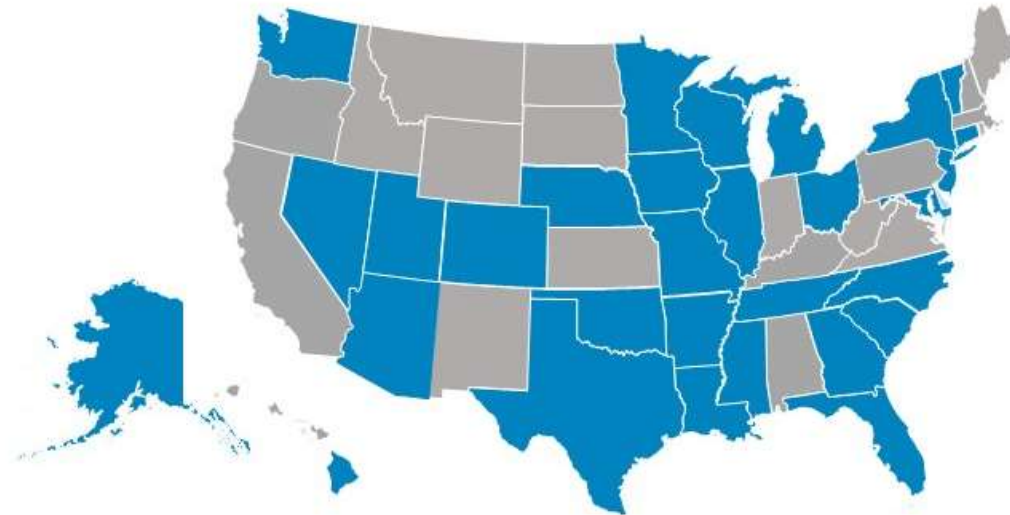
Infant-Toddler Court Program National Network

129 SITES TOTAL in 30 STATES

105 Active Sites

7 Statewide:

- Arkansas
- Florida
- New Jersey
- Ohio
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Washington



**5
Installing the
Approach**

**19
Exploring the
Approach**

POLLING QUESTION #2

How many states had an increase in the rate of infants entering foster care from 2011-2018?

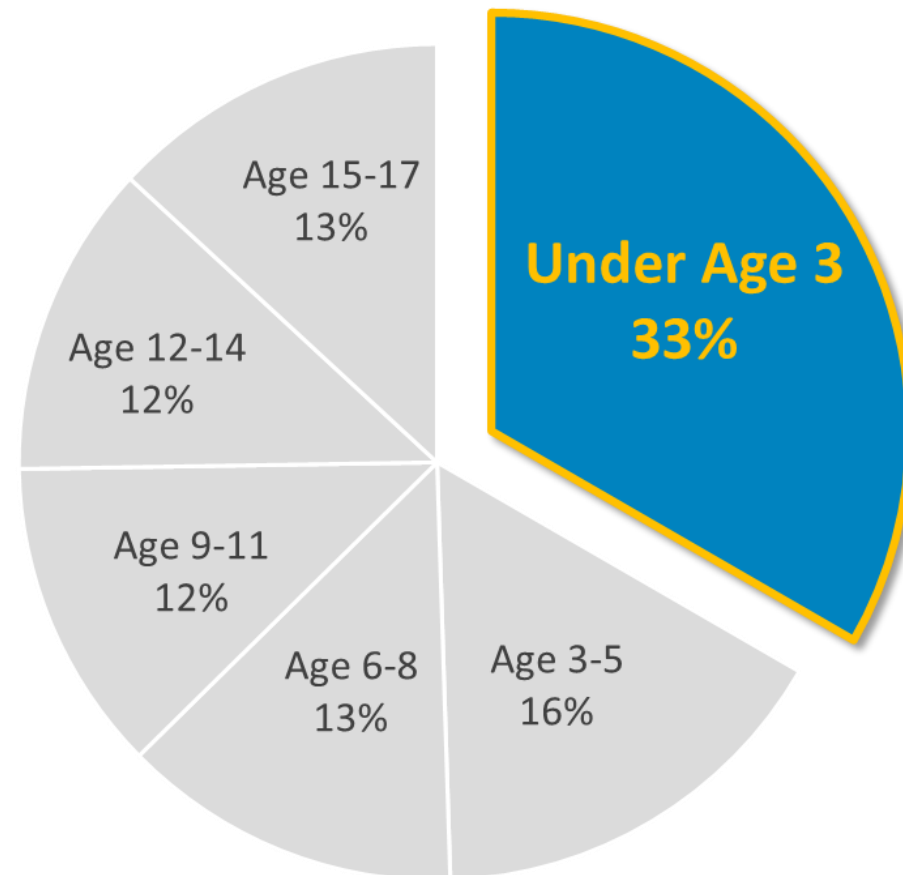
- Less than 10 states
- 15 states
- 30 states
- More than 40 states

Infants and Toddlers Are the Largest Group of Children Who Are Entering Foster Care



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Percent of Children Entering Foster Care by Age in Years FY2020



U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (October 2021). The AFCARS Report FY2020.



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Understanding the Policy Landscape

Changing the Course for Infants and Toddlers



Publication #2013-36

A Survey of State
Child Welfare Policies
and Initiatives

September 2013



States can improve supports for infants and toddlers who are in or at risk of entering foster care

Megan Fischer, Kristina Rosinsky, Elizabeth Jordan, Margaret Haas, Deborah Seok



February 2020





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Newly Released: A Policy Framework for States



Strengthening Families with Infants and Toddlers:
A Policy Framework for States
National Infant-Toddler Court Program

Authors: Torey Silloway and Jaclyn Szrom
June 2022



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www.zerotothree.org/PolicyFramework



A Policy Framework for States: **Purpose**

- **Lays out a framework for state and local policymakers containing a menu of policy options that:**
 - Meet the basic components of what it takes for very young children and families to thrive
 - Create protective factors that promote resilience
 - Build the community systems needed to support these efforts
- **Presents 11 policy options** to advance equitable outcomes supporting the health and well-being of very young children and their families, including those who are in, or at risk of entering, the child welfare system
- **Envisions a child welfare system transformed by the principles of family strengthening and child development**



A Policy Framework for States: **Intended Audience**



- State and Local Policymakers
- State and Local Agency Directors
 - Child Welfare
 - Public Health
 - Early Care and Education
 - Mental Health
 - Behavioral Health and Substance Use
 - Basic Needs Agencies
- Advocates
- Community Members
- Families



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A Policy Framework for States: **Section 1**

SECTION 1.

CREATE A CHILD AND
FAMILY WELL-BEING
SYSTEM THAT HELPS
ALL FAMILIES THRIVE





A Policy Framework for States: **Policies 1 - 4**

POLICY #1

Provide a continuum of services to all children and families to support good health, including affordable health care, comprehensive health and well-being assessments, and nutritious food

POLICY #2

Ensure families have access to affordable, high-quality services and supports to meet their basic needs, including safe and stable housing and economic supports

POLICY #3

Strengthen early learning experiences, including access to high-quality childcare

POLICY #4

Build community-level systems that provide a comprehensive continuum of supports to families through enhanced coordination and access to resources and services for families



A Policy Framework for States: **Section 2**

SECTION 2.

INFUSE FAMILY
STRENGTHENING,
CHILD DEVELOPMENT,
AND PARENT VOICE
INTO CHILD WELFARE
SYSTEMS





A Policy Framework for States: **Policies 5 - 7**

POLICY #5

Adopt early childhood development principles into all child welfare and dependency court and family treatment court practices

POLICY #6

Provide infants and toddlers with an open child welfare case and their parents with regular screenings, comprehensive assessments of need, and timely referrals and connections to appropriate services

POLICY #7

Provide high-quality legal representation as early as possible and throughout the entire legal process



A Policy Framework for States: **Policies 8 - 11**

POLICY #8

Require early and more frequent court hearings and case reviews for infants and toddlers involved in the child welfare system

POLICY #9

Ensure the use of frequent family team meetings or other family teaming models

POLICY #10

Require frequent, high-quality family time (visitation) between infants and toddlers in out-of-home care and their parents and siblings

POLICY #11

Create a network of family support partners and mentors to help parents successfully navigate the child welfare and court processes



A Policy Framework for States: **Example**

POLICY #9

Ensure the use of frequent family team meetings or other family teaming models

RECOMMENDED STATE AND LOCAL STRATEGIES

- **Create a standard process for implementing family team meetings, or family teaming models, across all child welfare cases involving infants and toddlers.** Meetings can be staggered so they occur periodically between court hearings to ensure that parents are consistently engaged and supported to take part in the decision-making process for their children, and to ensure that parents and caregivers are receiving services identified in the case plan.
- **Train staff on facilitating and/or participating in family team meetings.** Some family teaming models require an independent facilitator position, while others allow existing caseworker staff members to be trained as facilitators. To provide consistency, states should ensure that protocols for leading family team meetings are embedded into case practice manuals and training protocols.



A Policy Framework for States: **Example**

POLICY #9

Ensure the use of frequent family team meetings or other family teaming models

STATE AND LOCAL EXAMPLES

Additional resources and contact information available in the State Examples Appendix on [page 83](#).

- In [Pennsylvania](#), the Court Improvement Program is implementing a Family Engagement Initiative in several counties, using Crisis or Rapid Response Family Meetings to quickly support families when a crisis or other event occurs that could result in the need to remove a child from the home. This inclusive, family approach is designed to actively involve the family in decision-making. The goal of the family meeting is to address the immediate concern(s) leading to the need to remove a child from his or her home. In instances where there continue to be safety concerns and a child must be placed out of the home, a family meeting can help reduce trauma through placement with kin and supporting consistent family time or visitation.^{clvi}



A Policy Framework for States: **Example**

POLICY #9

Ensure the use of frequent family team meetings or other family teaming models

KEY DATA TO COLLECT¹⁶

- Frequency of family team meetings for each family
- Participation rates by parents in family team meetings
- Rates of reunification for parents who participate in family team meetings
- Rates of preventing removal for families who participate in family team meetings



A Policy Framework for States: **Example**

POLICY #9

Ensure the use of frequent family team meetings or other family teaming models

KEY RESOURCES

- Administration for Children and Families. (2019). Information Memorandum: Engaging, Empowering, and Utilizing Family and Youth Voice in All Aspects of Child Welfare to Drive Case Planning and System Improvement.
- Children's Bureau and Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2021). Family Engagement: Partnering with Families to Improve Child Welfare Outcomes.
- Annie E Casey Foundation. (2013). Four Approaches to Family Team Meetings.



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Key Policy Resources from the ITCP



Policy Framework

www.zerotothree.org/PolicyFramework



Federal Funding Guide

www.zerotothree.org/federal-funding-guide

About the Approach and Core Components

www.zerotothree.org/resources/services/the-safe-babies-court-team-approach

Contact: Janie Huddleston, Director, ITCP, jhuddleston@zerotothree.org



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The Role of Parent Leaders



THOUGHTS?



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What is your biggest takeaway from today's presentation?

DROP IT IN THE CHAT

Discussion/ Questions & Answers



Questions, Comments & Dialogue



Annual Legislative Summit



www.ncsl.org/summit2022

Your Opinion Matters



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ECECWfellows>

What's Next

Aug. 18 at 2 p.m. ET
Virtual Fellows convening



Sept. 12-14 final in-person meeting



Denver, Colo.