

Leveraging State Economic and Health Policies to Prevent Infant and Toddler Maltreatment

Annotated Resource Compilation



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These resources were developed by the Measuring Up project, which works to identify circumstances that help children develop optimally and equitably. The project focuses on identifying these factors for the prenatal period (before birth) through age 2. We also identify risk factors that may hinder very young children’s optimal development. In addition, we identify policies and programs that support optimal development for kids.

For more information on our work and original analyses of state policy changes and state-level child welfare system trends, see: <https://www.childtrends.org/project/measuring-up>

Data

Child Safety and Well-Being Data

- **Annie E. Casey Foundation – Kids Count Data Center**
 - **Summary:** Searchable database of indicators of child and family well-being by state, derived from national data sources and updated annually. Users can create and download customizable data visualizations.
 - **URL:** <https://datacenter.aecf.org/>
- **ChildStats Forum on Child and Family Statistics – America’s Children: Key National Indicators of Well-Being, 2023**
 - **Summary:** Results of a 2023 assessment of child and family well-being.
 - **URL:** <https://www.childstats.gov/americaschildren/>
- **Children’s Bureau (U.S. Office of the Administration for Children and Families) – Child Maltreatment**
 - **Summary:** Annual reports of child maltreatment and child welfare system involvement data reported by U.S. states and territories to the federal government annually through the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS).
 - **URL:** <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/data-research/child-maltreatment>
- **Child Trends – State-level Data for Understanding Child Welfare in the United States**
 - **Summary:** Interactive tool designed for those who want to learn more about child maltreatment reports and victimization rates by state.
 - **URL:** <https://www.childtrends.org/publications/state-level-data-for-understanding-child-welfare-in-the-united-states>

Poverty and Economic Indicators Data

- **U.S. Census Bureau – Poverty in the United States (2023)**
 - **Summary:** Overview of U.S. Census data on household poverty.
 - **URL:** <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/2024/demo/p60-283.html>
- **USA Facts – Home Prices Are Rising Faster Than Wages**
 - **Summary:** Interactive data visualizations demonstrating how inflation has impacted property prices and how wages have increased to keep up with inflation across the United States, at state and county levels.

- **URL:** https://usafacts.org/data-projects/housing-vs-wages?utm_source=google&utm_medium=cpc&utm_campaign=ND-Economy&gclid=EAlalQobChMI3e ruPK6ggMV2y3UAR0sRAW-EAMYASAAEgK-i D BwE
- **USA Facts – Housing Price Index Data**
 - **Summary:** Interactive data visualizations depicting the Housing Price Index over time and by state.
 - **URL:** <https://usafacts.org/data/topics/economy/economic-indicators/economic-indicators-and-actions/housing-price-index/>
- **Forbes Advisor – Examining the Cost of Living by State In 2024**
 - **Summary:** Brief overview of cost of living and wages across states, with data derived from Zillow, the U.S. Census, and other sources.
 - **URL:** <https://www.forbes.com/advisor/mortgages/cost-of-living-by-state/>

Simulations and Interactive Tools

- **Prenatal-to-3 Policy – Policy Roadmap**
 - **Summary:** Information about state policies linked to child maltreatment and child well-being, and how states are implementing policies (updated annually).
 - **URL:** <https://pn3policy.org/pn-3-state-policy-roadmap-2024/>
- **Casey Family Programs – Community Opportunity Map**
 - **Summary:** Interactive map depicting child poverty and other indicators of child well-being (e.g., education, housing) across the United States.
 - **URL:** <https://www.casey.org/community-opportunity-map/>
- **Casey Family Programs – Questions from the Field**
 - **Summary:** Easy-to-read briefs based on empirical research related to a variety of topics – designed for communities, practitioners, and policymakers.
 - **URL:** <https://www.casey.org/resources/field-questions/>

Tools and Guides

Advocacy Toolkits and Discussion Guides

- **ZERO to THREE – Infants and Toddlers in the Policy Picture: A Self-Assessment Toolkit for States**

- **Summary:** Toolkit designed to support states' self-assessments of how policies impact well-being among infants and toddlers.
- **URL:** <https://www.zerotothree.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Infants-And-Toddlers-In-The-Policy-Picture -A-Self-Assessment-Toolkit-For-States.pdf>
- **National Council on Family Relations – Policy Advocacy Toolkit**
 - **Summary:** Toolkit including resources about policies and legislation, finding and contacting legislators, and communicating with them about policy changes.
 - **URL:** <https://www.ncfr.org/policy/advocacy-toolkit>
- **National Council on Family Relations – How to Explain Science to Anyone**
 - **Summary:** Toolkit containing information about science communication relevant to children and families.
 - **URL:** <https://www.ncfr.org/about/what-family-science/elevator-pitch>
- **Association of Public Health Nurses – Public Health Policy Advocacy Guidebook and Toolkit**
 - **Summary:** Toolkit providing an overview of advocacy (advocacy strategies, engaging in advocacy), the policy making process, and a framework for identifying policy goals, taking action, and bringing change, designed originally for public health professionals.
 - **URL:** https://www.phnurse.org/assets/docs/APHN%20Public%20Health%20Policy%20Advocacy%20Guidebook%20and%20Toolkit%20_May%202021.pdf
- **American Academy of Pediatrics – Advocacy Guide**
 - **Summary:** Guide designed to encourage pediatricians to advocate for child well-being and for systemic change in children's health care.
 - **URL:** https://downloads.aap.org/AAP/PDF/aap_advocacy_guide.pdf
- **Families USA – Health Policy and Advocacy Toolkit**
 - **Summary:** Toolkit explaining federal and state policy and policy making processes, and how people can get involved in health-related policy advocacy.
 - **URL:** https://familiesusa.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Health_Policy_Toolkit.pdf
- **Family Impact Institute – Implementation Resources**
 - **Summary:** Website containing several resources related to implementing “Family Impact Seminars” for state legislatures.
 - **URL:** <https://trestlelink.org/models/family-impact-seminars/implementation-resources/>
- **National Association of County and City Health Officials – Advocacy Toolkit**
 - **Summary:** Advocacy toolkit detailing policy engagement and advocacy processes relevant to counties and cities, with clear and simple action steps and timelines.
 - **URL:** <https://www.naccho.org/uploads/downloadable-resources/Advocacy-Toolkit-May-2021.pdf>
- **Michigan League for Public Policy – Michigan Toolkit**

- **Summary:** State-specific example toolkit outlining how advocacy and legislative processes work in Michigan and federally.
- **URL:** <https://mlpp.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/advocacy-2016-colors-updated.pdf>

Equitable Policy Making

- **Social Current** – 2022-2024 Federal Public Policy Agenda
 - **Summary:** Report outlining *Social Current's* policy priorities related to advancing well-being, equity, and economic opportunity.
 - **URL:** <https://www.social-current.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Social-Current-2022-2024-Federal-Public-Policy-Agenda-1.pdf>
- **Council of State Governments** – Policy Checklist
 - **Summary:** Checklist designed for assessing state policies from a disability-equity perspective.
 - **URL:** <https://web.csg.org/2020/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2020/12/state-policy-checklist-040220.pdf>

Evidence-Based Policy Making

- **Society for Public Health Education** – Guide to Effectively Educating State and Local Policymakers
 - **Summary:** Background, frameworks, action plans, resource kits, templates, and training materials related to educating local and state policymakers on issues related to public health.
 - **URL:** <https://www.sophe.org/resources/guide-effectively-educating-state-local-policymakers/>
- **Pew and MacArthur Foundation** – Evidence-Based Policymaking Guide
 - **Summary:** A framework outlining steps that both the executive and legislative branches can take to drive the development, funding, implementation, and monitoring of policies and programs.
 - **URL:** <https://www.pewtrusts.org/-/media/assets/2014/11/evidencebasedpolicymakingaguideforreffectivegovernment.pdf>
- **Prevent Child Abuse America** – State Policymaker Engagement Example (North Carolina)
 - **Summary:** Comprehensive report covering a range of topics relevant to child maltreatment (e.g. Adverse Childhood and Community Experiences, Social Determinants of Health, prevention, home visiting, parenting education, and paid leave) along with clear action steps about how to change and introduce policies aimed at preventing child maltreatment.
 - **URL:** <https://preventchildabusenc.org/moving-forward-with-hope-results-from-the-policymakers-perspectives-on-child-maltreatment-prevention-in-nc-study/>
- **U.S. Government Accountability Office** – Federal Priorities on Child Well-Being

- **Summary:** Report outlining the state of child well-being and discusses experts' views on what policymakers could consider when addressing child well-being, and wraps up with a recommendation for policymakers to consider.
- **URL:** <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-18-41sp>
- **Chapin Hall – The Role of Economic and Concrete Supports in Child Maltreatment Prevention: Findings from a National Landscape Survey of Child Welfare Leaders**
 - **Summary:** Report summarizing analyses linking various economic supports to risks for child maltreatment and child welfare involvement.
 - **URL:** https://www.chapinhall.org/wp-content/uploads/Chapin-Hall_APHSA_ECS-Full-Research-Report_Nov2023.pdf

Policy Landscape

Child Maltreatment and Child Well-Being Policies

- **Prenatal-to-3 Policy Clearinghouse – Policy Clearinghouse**
 - **Summary:** Clearinghouse that reviews evidence related to state policies intended to improve outcomes for infants, toddlers, and their families.
 - **URL:** <https://pn3policy.org/pn-3-state-policy-clearinghouse/>
- **Child Welfare Information Gateway – State Statute Search**
 - **Summary:** Searchable database of state and tribal statutes on a variety of child welfare issues.
 - **URL:** <https://www.childwelfare.gov/resources/states-territories-tribes/state-statutes/>

State and Federal Legislation Trackers

- **National Conference of State Legislatures – 50-State Searchable Bill Tracking Databases**
 - **Summary:** Tools for searching state-level legislative actions on a variety of topics – sorted by topic, including: child welfare, minimum wage, tax incentives, employment, public health, early childhood, maternal and child health, economic mobility, disability employment policy, and more.
 - **URL:** <https://www.ncsl.org/technology-and-communication/ncsl-50-state-searchable-bill-tracking-databases>

Contraceptive Access Policies

- **National Academy for State Health Policy – How States are Providing Access to Publicly Financed Contraceptive Care in a Shifting Landscape**

- **Summary:** Detailed overview of state-level strategies for offering and funding contraception, including sample strategies and links to relevant research.
- **URL:** <https://nashp.org/how-states-are-providing-access-to-publicly-financed-contraceptive-care-in-a-shifting-landscape/>
- **National Conference of State Legislatures – State Contraception Policies**
 - **Summary:** Overview of state-level contraception policies (updated regularly).
 - **URL:** <https://www.ncsl.org/health/state-contraception-policies#:~:text=Five%20states%20have%20enacted%20pharmacy,%2C%20New%20Mexico%2C%20Washington>
- **National Conference of State Legislatures – State Options Addressing Access to Contraception**
 - **Summary:** Brief report outlining state and federal contraceptive access policy actions.
 - **URL:** <https://www.ncsl.org/health/state-options-addressing-access-to-contraception>
- **Congressional Research Service – Title X Parental Consent for Contraceptive Services Litigation: Overview and Initial Observations**
 - **Summary:** Resource summarizing state and federal policies related to minors’ rights to consent to contraceptive services and parents’ rights to be notified and/or provide approval.
 - **URL:** <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/LSB/LSB10916>

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Policies

- **U.S. Food and Nutrition Service (U.S. Department of Agriculture) – SNAP Policy Database**
 - **Summary:** Information and documentation on SNAP-related data for all 50 states and DC from 1996-2020, for analysis of state-level SNAP policy actions over time.
 - **URL:** <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/snap-policy-data-sets/snap-policy-database-documentation/#:~:text=available%20for%20download,-.Strengths%20and%20Limitations,participation%20and%20outcomes%20of%20interest>
- **National Library of Medicine – State Implementation of SNAP Waivers and Flexibilities During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Perspectives from State Agency Leaders**
 - **Summary:** Perspectives of state SNAP administrators on implementing SNAP-related policy changes.
 - **URL:** <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9552006/>
- **Farm Bill Law Enterprise – SNAP Modernization: Expand Online Shopping and Delivery For Greater Food Access**
 - **Summary:** Information about how online grocery shopping options can increase convenience and accessibility for SNAP recipients.
 - **URL:** <https://www.farmbilllaw.org/2023/02/21/snap-modernization-expand-online-shopping-and-delivery-for-greater-food-access/>
- **Urban Institute – Exploring States’ SNAP Modernization Projects**

- **Summary:** Interactive information on states' experiences with American Rescue Plan Act-funded projects and ideas for further modernizing the SNAP program.
- **URL:** <https://www.urban.org/projects/exploring-states-snap-modernization-projects>
- **American Public Human Services Association – Early Insights on SNAP Modernization through American Rescue Plan Investments**
 - **Summary:** Brief report detailing state efforts to use ARPA funds to modernize SNAP program operations.
 - **URL:** <https://files.constantcontact.com/391325ca001/23677955-fa3e-4fe0-aae0-3221f7b0eab2.pdf>

Child Tax Credit (CTC) Policies

- **Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy – State Child Tax Credits and Child Poverty: A 50-State Analysis**
 - **Summary:** Details about the various forms and features of CTCs across all states.
 - **URL:** <https://itep.org/state-child-tax-credits-and-child-poverty-50-state-analysis/>
- **National Conference of State Legislatures – Child Tax Credit Enactments**
 - **Summary:** Routinely updated information on the status of states' CTC policies and sample legislation.
 - **URL:** <https://www.ncsl.org/human-services/child-tax-credit-enactments>
- **Michigan State University Institute for Public Policy and Social Research – The Case for State-Level Child Tax Credits**
 - **Summary:** Report describing research on the impact of expanded CTCs on child and family poverty, with state-specific examples.
 - **URL:** <https://ippsr.msu.edu/ippsr-insights-case-state-level-child-tax-credits>
- **Tax Policy Center – Lessons from the 2021 Child Tax Credit Expansion Informing State Policy Debates**
 - **Summary:** Brief overview of impacts of expanded CTCs on state policy making.
 - **URL:** <https://www.taxpolicycenter.org/taxvox/lessons-2021-child-tax-credit-expansion-informing-state-policy-debates>

Minimum Wage Policies

- **U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics – Characteristics of Minimum Wage Workers, 2023**
 - **Summary:** Report summarizing U.S. Census data to provide a demographic overview of U.S. workers who earn minimum wages.
 - **URL:** <https://www.bls.gov/opub/reports/minimum-wage/2023/>
- **Congressional Budget Office – How Increasing the Federal Minimum Wage Could Affect Employment and Family Income**

- **Summary:** Interactive tool that can be used to estimate the effects of state minimum wage policy changes on family income.
- **URL:** <https://www.cbo.gov/publication/55681>
- **Living Wage: Calculator – Living Wage Calculator**
 - **Summary:** Interactive tool for learning about costs of living for single- and two-parent families with one, two, or three children, by state.
 - **URL:** <https://livingwage.mit.edu/states/18>
- **National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine – Roadmap to Reducing Child Poverty**
 - **Summary:** Roadmap of potential policy approaches and non-partisan analyses of the projected impacts of various policy approaches on child maltreatment rates.
 - **URL:** <https://nap.nationalacademies.org/read/25246/chapter/1>

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