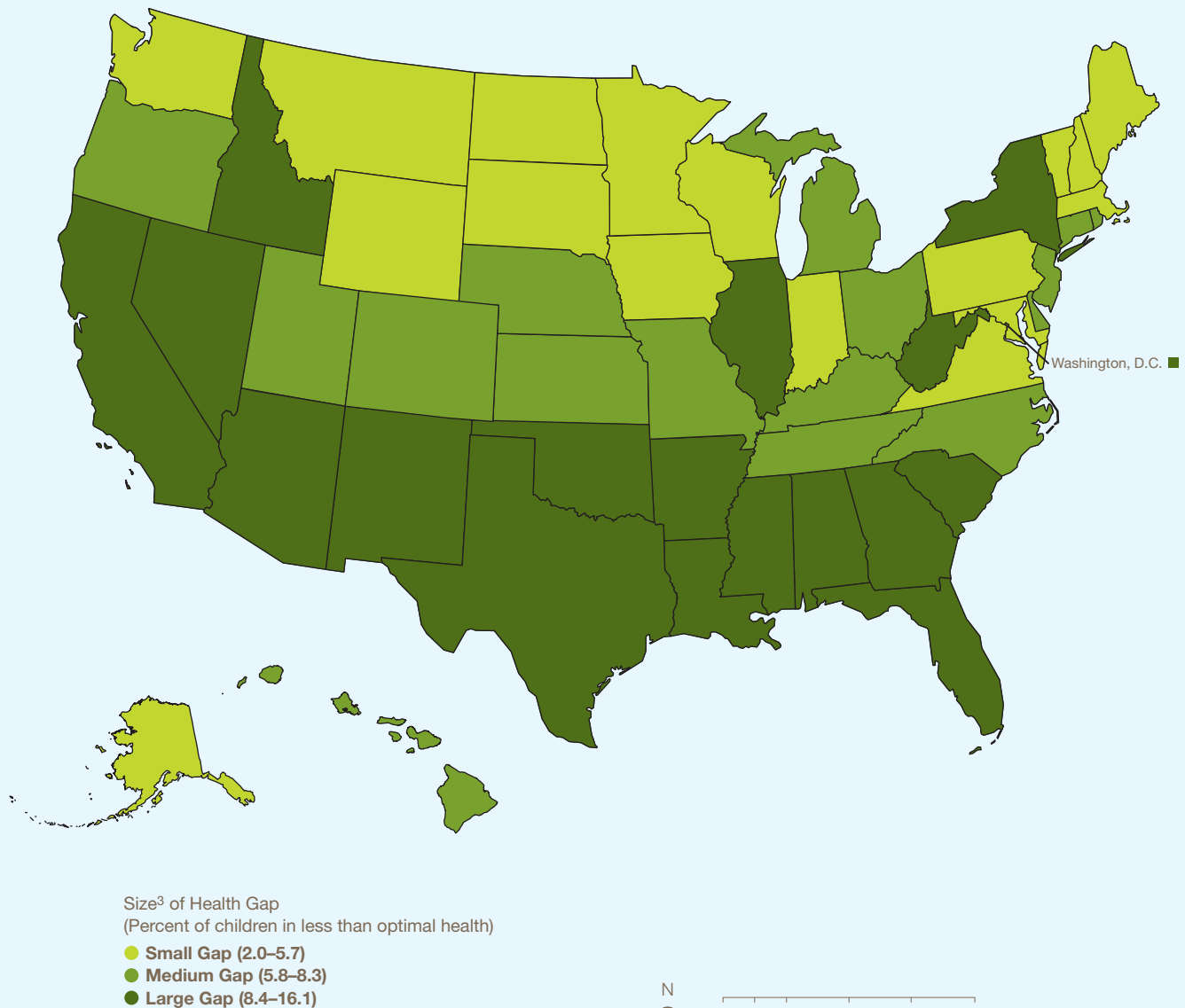


Gaps in Children's General Health Status by Family Income: How Do States Compare?

In almost every state, the percent of children ages 17 years or younger in less than optimal health¹ was lowest among children in higher-income families and increased as family income decreased.

Although the size of the state-level gap² in children's general health status by family income varies markedly, there is unrealized health potential among children in every state.



Prepared for the RWJF Commission to Build a Healthier America by the Center on Social Disparities in Health at the University of California, San Francisco.

Source: 2003 National Survey of Children's Health.

1 Assessed by their parents to be in less than very good or excellent health.

2 Defined as the size of the improvement in the state's overall rate if all children had the level of health experienced by children in higher-income families.

3 States were grouped into three approximately equal groups based on the size of the gaps in children's general health status by family income.