

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

Differences in children's general health status<sup>1</sup> by family income are similar at the state level to those seen among children nationally. In almost every state, children in higher-income families experience better health than all other children in families with lower incomes. Compared with children in higher-income families, children in poor families experience

particularly marked shortfalls, but with few exceptions even those in middle-income families appear less healthy than those at the top. Comparing states based on the size of the gaps<sup>2</sup> in children's general health status by income tells us that there is unrealized health potential among children not just at the national level but in every state as well.

Percent of Children in Less Than Optimal Health by Household Income (Percent of Federal Poverty Level)

	Number of Children, Ages ≤17 years	Overall Rate of Less Than Optimal Health <sup>1</sup> (%)	Poor (<100% FPL)	Near Poor (100% to 199% FPL)	Middle Income (200% to 399% FPL)	Higher Income (≥400% FPL)	Overall Rate if Gap Were Eliminated	Percentage of Population That Would be Affected if Gap Were Eliminated <sup>2</sup>	Size of Health Gap <sup>2</sup>	Ranking on Size of Health Gap <sup>2</sup>
Alabama	1,102,924	16.9	33.2	18.4	11.3	5.4	80.9	11.6	48	
Alaska	188,133	11.9	23.7	9.5	9.4	6.7	83.4	5.2	12	
Arizona	1,512,175	19.3	38.8	23.2	11.2	6.3	78.7	13.0	49	
Arkansas	678,604	17.9	31.9	19.2	9.1	9.5	83.3	8.4	34	
California	9,378,237	22.5	41.0	27.9	16.5	9.1	71.2	13.4	50	
Colorado	1,147,831	13.4	38.0	17.6	9.6	5.1	67.1	8.3	33	
Connecticut	832,105	12.7	29.7	20.4	11.7	6.9	57.0	5.8	18	
Delaware	198,401	14.8	30.7	20.5	11.0	7.5	69.1	7.3	26	
District of Columbia	107,436	17.4	27.8	20.4	13.0	6.4	75.9	11.0	45	
Florida	3,907,632	13.9	28.3	17.0	9.3	5.0	75.5	8.8	39	
Georgia	2,287,060	14.6	26.0	22.1	8.9	5.7	73.8	8.9	41	
Hawaii	295,749	13.3	26.5	16.0	8.6	6.8	79.4	6.5	22	
Idaho	370,187	12.9	25.1	17.1	8.6	4.5	82.2	8.4	34	
Illinois	3,219,265	16.7	34.6	21.9	11.7	8.3	70.5	8.4	34	
Indiana	1,596,856	12.5	26.9	15.9	8.9	6.7	76.1	5.7	17	
Iowa	689,306	11.8	25.1	15.2	8.9	7.1	77.1	4.8	10	
Kansas	692,666	13.7	35.3	15.4	8.5	7.6	77.4	6.1	20	
Kentucky	989,559	13.1	26.8	12.9	9.7	5.3	79.2	7.8	29	
Louisiana	1,172,477	17.8	30.4	18.5	12.0	6.7	80.9	11.1	46	
Maine	285,070	9.1	18.5	11.5	7.1	4.8	77.9	4.3	7	

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 Based on parental assessment and measured as poor, fair, good, very good or excellent.

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.

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	Number of Children, Ages ≤17 years	Overall Rate of Less Than Optimal Health <sup>1</sup> (%)	Poor (<100% FPL)	Near Poor (100% to 199% FPL)	Middle Income (200% to 399% FPL)	Higher Income (≥400% FPL)	Overall Rate if Gap Were Eliminated	Percentage of Population That Would be Affected if Gap Were Eliminated <sup>3</sup>	Size of Health Gap <sup>2</sup>	Ranking on Size of Health Gap <sup>4</sup>
Maryland	1,373,206	12.2	27.3	17.2	9.6	8.5	59.5	3.6	2	
Massachusetts	1,480,745	11.3	28.4	19.7	8.3	5.7	59.7	5.6	16	
Michigan	2,527,842	15.0	34.1	19.6	10.8	7.8	72.1	7.3	26	
Minnesota	1,244,232	9.6	16.7	15.5	8.0	5.8	67.9	3.8	4	
Mississippi	757,175	19.3	29.5	21.1	11.4	8.5	85.6	10.9	44	
Missouri	1,401,584	12.1	21.2	14.5	11.1	5.4	76.5	6.8	25	
Montana	214,360	9.9	17.3	10.6	7.9	4.8	84.5	5.1	11	
Nebraska	438,253	13.6	29.0	19.6	8.4	7.0	78.6	6.5	22	
Nevada	579,030	20.4	43.5	23.5	14.0	9.2	76.0	11.2	47	
New Hampshire	305,116	8.3	13.3	11.5	7.6	6.4	64.9	2.0	1	
New Jersey	2,125,387	15.6	37.9	26.1	12.5	8.0	56.6	7.6	28	
New Mexico	499,905	18.1	30.7	17.9	12.7	9.1	83.5	9.0	42	
New York	4,498,836	16.8	37.7	19.6	10.9	8.3	71.7	8.5	38	
North Carolina	2,080,668	14.6	26.9	17.0	11.0	6.5	75.8	8.1	32	
North Dakota	146,143	9.2	15.5	10.4	8.7	5.4	80.6	3.8	4	
Ohio	2,807,666	11.1	24.1	14.5	7.4	5.0	75.9	6.1	20	
Oklahoma	874,700	13.7	25.7	14.3	9.3	5.3	82.8	8.4	34	
Oregon	845,439	13.3	28.8	16.9	9.7	5.5	75.9	7.8	29	
Pennsylvania	2,815,445	12.6	30.4	18.0	7.4	7.1	74.5	5.5	15	
Rhode Island	242,626	13.2	34.5	16.1	9.0	5.4	71.0	7.8	29	
South Carolina	1,018,081	17.4	30.4	21.3	11.7	8.2	79.0	9.2	43	
South Dakota	192,623	11.0	17.7	14.5	8.6	5.6	82.6	5.4	13	
Tennessee	1,388,714	14.6	25.6	16.3	11.2	7.9	78.1	6.7	24	
Texas	6,213,401	22.8	44.1	26.3	13.7	6.7	76.9	16.1	51	
Utah	738,594	10.7	22.3	13.3	8.2	4.8	80.7	5.9	19	
Vermont	137,011	6.9	15.6	10.2	5.9	2.4	73.8	4.5	9	
Virginia	1,792,362	9.9	14.6	17.4	7.7	6.2	66.1	3.7	3	
Washington	1,490,659	12.6	30.4	11.7	9.7	8.1	70.1	4.4	8	
West Virginia	389,291	15.8	25.8	17.5	10.8	7.0	85.4	8.8	39	
Wisconsin	1,327,839	11.7	30.2	13.8	8.2	6.3	74.1	5.4	13	
Wyoming	120,356	10.9	29.1	13.2	5.7	7.0	79.7	3.9	6	
United States	72,718,963	15.9	33.3	19.8	10.8	7.1	73.4	8.8	—	

3 The percent of children who live in families with incomes below 400 percent of the Federal Poverty Level.

4 Ranked by size of gap, from smallest to largest; states with the same size gap were assigned the same ranking.