

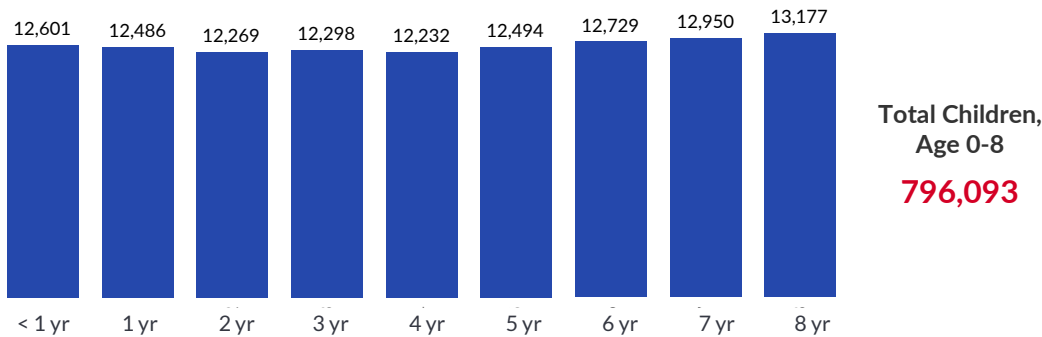
The Early Childhood Landscape in MONTANA



OVERVIEW

Learning is a continuum that begins from our first day in the world, not just the first day of school. As we begin to understand how the opportunities and environments early in life impact long-term learning and life outcomes, our systems of education have begun to gradually encompass children of younger ages. Because early childhood learning is largely undefined and decentralized, this packet is meant to serve as a compilation of the various statistics, data, and research available. While by no means comprehensive, we hope it provides a foundational understanding of the current landscape of early learning in your state.

Number of Children Age 8 and Younger, 2015



STATE DEMOGRAPHICS

Early childhood initiatives are often crafted to support specific populations within a state—such as infants, children from low-income families, and English language learners—which is why it is important to first understand your state’s demographics.

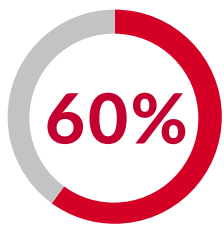
Questions To Consider

How many young children are in my state?

How does this impact the scale of policies?

What is the economic status of families with young children?

Are there unique cultural needs for young children in my state?



Children with All Available Parents in the Labor Force, Age 0-6 (2015)



Children in Poverty, Age 0-5 (2015)



Children in Low-Income Working Families, Age 0-6 (2015)

Children Age 0-4 by Race, 2015

	White	Black	Hispanic	Two or More Races	Asian	American Indian
# Children	48,354	459	4,293	3,309	382	6,178
% of All Children	76.7%	0.7%	6.8%	5.2%	0.6%	9.8%

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Current Status of Infant and Toddler Well-Being

INDICATOR	MONTANA	NATION
Unintended Pregnancy (% of all pregnancies)	45%	45%
Prenatal Care Before 3rd Trimester (% of live births)	93%	87%
Teen Mothers (% of live births)	3%	7%
Home Health Visit (% of children ages 0-3)	9%	14%
Well-Baby Check (% of babies)	94%	91%
Developmental Screening (% of children ages 10 months to 5 years)	23%	31%

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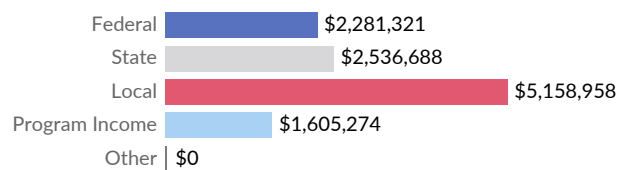
Maternal and Child Health Grant

The federal government allocates the Title V Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Block Grant to states. **Montana** provides additional funding to the MCH program (as shown below).

The state has identified eight national performance measures to focus on:

- **Low-Risk Cesarean Delivery**
- **Breastfeeding**
- **Safe Sleep**
- **Injury Hospitalization**
- **Adolescent Well-Visit**
- **Transition (Children with Special Needs)**
- **Preventive Dental Visit**
- **Smoking**

Montana MCH Funds by Source



Montana | MCH 2015 Expenditures

POPULATION SERVED	INDIVIDUALS SERVED	2015 EXPENDITURE
Pregnant Women	4,083	\$1,604,367
Infants	12,529	\$1,415,843
Children (Age 1-22)	28,998	\$4,205,762
Children with Special Needs	6,763	\$2,278,684
Others	55,296	\$2,515,868
Total	107,669	\$12,020,524

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INFANT AND TODDLER SUPPORT

Infants and toddlers develop and learn at exponential rates as they explore and engage with the environments and adults around them. In order to support their **health and development**, pregnant women, infants and toddlers, and parents need access to information and services.

Questions To Consider

Are women and children receiving health care services before and after birth?

Are families prepared for and educated about the needs of young children?

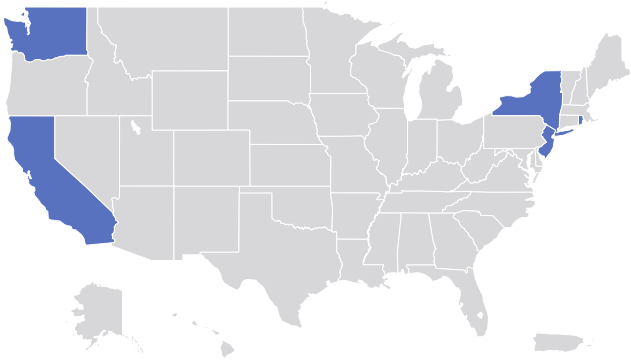
What areas of maternal and child health is my state focusing on?



Paid Family Leave

Montana does not have a statewide paid family leave policy.

States with Paid Family Leave Policies



State	First Year	# Weeks	Benefit (% Income)
CA	2004	6	Up to 70%
DC	2020	8	Up to 90%
NJ	2009	6	Up to 66%
NY	2018	8	Up to 50%
RI	2014	4	Up to 60%
WA	2020	12	Up to 90%

INFANT AND TODDLER SUPPORT

Questions To Consider

What does paid family leave look like across the country?
Is that conversation happening in my state?

Is my state funding a significant percentage of home visits?
Were home visits an MCH priority for my state?

Home Visiting

Home visiting is a type of service targeted to expectant parents and parents with children ages 0-5 to support healthy child development. Though models and programs vary, home visits typically allow trained experts to provide services, share best practices, and connect families to other resources all within the home setting.

1,060

Number of Families Served Through Home Visits in 2016 ²

14,441

Number of Home Visits Provided in 2016 ^{1,2}

What models for home visiting is my state utilizing? How are different models used to support families' unique needs?

Montana uses the following evidence-based models for home visiting programs:^{1,2}

- Family Spirit
- Nurse-Family Partnership
- Parents as Teachers
- SafeCare

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[VIEW DATA RESOURCE 2](#)



Cost and Affordability of Infant Care

\$9,062

Average Annual Cost of Infant Care in **Montana**

16%

Infant Care Cost as a Share of Median Family Income in **Montana**

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, child care is affordable if it costs no more than 10% of a family's income.

By this standard, only

28%

of families in **Montana** can afford infant care.



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Public Support for Infant Care

PROGRAM	FUNDING SOURCE	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER OF CHILDREN AGES 0-3 SERVED	
Early Head Start	Federal (with optional state supplement)	Funds child care slots for children ages 0-3 from low-income families in addition to some health and family services.	Federal	558
			State	0
Child Care and Development Fund	Federal and State	Provides financial assistance to low-income families to access child care so they can work or attend a job training or educational program.	1,088 monthly average	

INFANT AND TODDLER SUPPORT

Questions To Consider

Is the cost of infant care in my state affordable?

What percentage of families have all available parents in the labor force? What does that mean for the demand for infant care?

What type of public support is available in my state for infant care?



Pre-Kindergarten Trends

38.8%

3- and 4-Year Olds Enrolled in **Pre-K** Public and Private (Estimated **9,510** children)

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10.3%

3- and 4-Year Olds Enrolled in **Head Start** Program (Estimated **2,515** children)

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0.0%

3- and 4-Year Olds Enrolled in **State pre-K** Program (Estimated **0** children)

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Percentage of 3- and 4-Year-Olds Enrolled in Pre-K, Public & Private by Race



The following group(s) have enrollment rates in pre-school programs that are below the state average: **White**

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THREE- AND FOUR-YEAR-OLDS

At ages three- and four, children may be eligible to enroll in pre-Kindergarten, or “pre-K,” programs, both private and public. Pre-K programs are not compulsory, and families may elect to continue any arrangement of their choice.

Questions To Consider

How many children are attending pre-K, public or private?

Are certain populations more likely to attend pre-K?

What percentage of children are enrolled in pre-K due to public support?

How expensive is child care for 4-year-olds?

\$9.18

Median Hourly Wage Child Care Worker

60%

Median Wage for Child Care Worker as Percent of State Median Income

\$7,922

Average Annual Cost of Child Care for 4-year-old

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\$12.45

Median Hourly Wage Preschool Teacher

75%

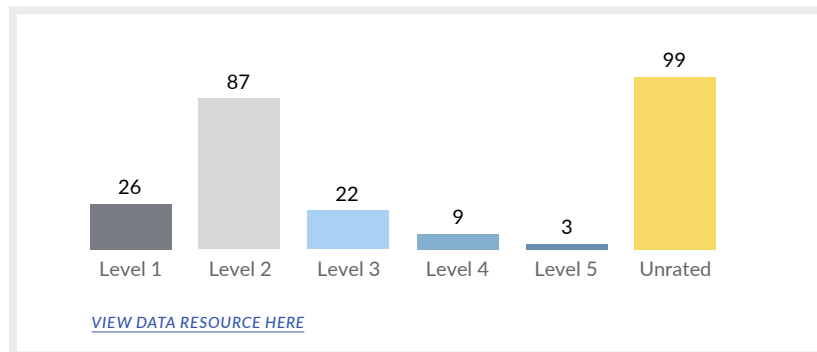
Median Wage for Preschool Teacher as Percent of State Median Income



Quality Ratings of Child Care Programs

In recent years, many states have designed Quality Ratings and Improvement Systems (QRIS) to evaluate child care providers. The QRIS rating is often a reflection of various measures such as teacher-child interactions, classroom environment, family engagement, and staff educational attainment. Often voluntary, QRIS systems are meant to help improve the quality of child care providers and help families choose the right provider for their children.

Child Care Providers By QRIS Level



THREE- AND FOUR-YEAR-OLDS

Questions To Consider

Are pre-K standards aligned with goals of the K-12 system?

Does my state require pre-K teachers to have a certain degree? If so, what?

Has my state developed a system to assess the quality of pre-K and child care providers? Is participation mandatory for state pre-K programs?



K-3 Policy

	K-3 COMPONENT	MONTANA
ATTENDANCE	Compulsory Age of Attendance ¹	7
	Kindergarten Entrance Age ¹	5 on or before 9/10
	State-Required Full-Day Kindergarten ¹	No, full-day kindergarten is not required.
	State-Required Half-Day Kindergarten ¹	Yes
	Required Kindergarten Attendance ¹	No
STANDARDS AND ASSESSMENTS	Required Kindergarten Entrance Assessment (KEA) ²	Not specified in statute, rules or regulations.
	Statewide KEA ³	No
	KEA Results Use ²	Not specified in statute, rules or regulations.
	K-3 Formative Assessment Consortium Member ³	No
	Dual Language Learner (DLL) Assessment ⁴	Assessing Comprehension and Communication in English State-to-State for ELLs (ACCESS 2.0)
	Number of States Using DLL Assessment ²	36
	3 rd -Grade Reading Retention Law ²	Not specified in statute, rules or regulations.
EDUCATORS	Early Childhood Education License Required for Kindergarten Teachers ³	No
	Science of Reading Test Required for Elementary Teachers ⁶	None
	Teacher-to-Student Ratio Requirement ²	1:20 for grades K-2. 1:28 for grades 3 and 4.

FIVE- TO EIGHT-YEAR-OLDS

At age five, children are eligible to begin kindergarten—generally considered the start to their formal education. In these early grades, there is a strong focus on learning to read due to research indicating that 3rd-grade literacy is crucial for success in school and life.

Questions To Consider

Are districts required to offer full-day kindergarten?

At what age are children eligible to attend school? At what age is attendance compulsory?

How are children assessed in grades K-3? What are assessment results used for?

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[VIEW DATA RESOURCE HERE²](#) [VIEW DATA RESOURCE HERE⁴](#)