

GOAL 1: Ready to Learn

State Indicator 1. Children's Health Index

Have states¹ reduced the percentages of infants born with one or more of four health risks?²

↑ Better 37 states and the U.S.
 ↔ No Change 8 states
 ↓ Worse 4 states

Update

Improvement over time

Between 1990 and 1997, the U.S. and 37 states (out of 49) significantly reduced the percentages of infants born with one or more of four health risks:

1. Alabama	11. Idaho	21. Nebraska	31. Texas
2. Arizona	12. Illinois	22. Nevada	32. Vermont
3. Arkansas	13. Iowa	23. New Hampshire	33. Virginia
4. Colorado	14. Kentucky	24. New Mexico	34. Washington
5. Connecticut	15. Louisiana	25. North Carolina	35. West Virginia
6. Delaware	16. Maryland	26. Ohio	36. Wisconsin
7. District of Columbia	17. Massachusetts	27. Oregon	37. Wyoming
8. Florida	18. Michigan	28. Pennsylvania	
9. Georgia	19. Mississippi	29. Rhode Island	
10. Hawaii	20. Missouri	30. South Carolina	

Highest-performing states*

States with the lowest percentages of infants born with one or more of four health risks:

	(1997)		(1997)
Connecticut	24%	Arizona	31%
Maryland	28%	Georgia	31%
Utah	28%	Virginia	31%
Florida	29%	Idaho	32%
Hawaii	29%	Illinois	32%
Texas	29%	Kansas	32%
Colorado	30%	Massachusetts	32%
Minnesota	30%	Nevada	32%
Rhode Island	30%	Washington	32%
	U.S.		33%

* States that had a significantly lower percentage than the U.S. average.

Most-improved states

States that made the greatest reductions in the percentages of infants born with one or more of four health risks:

	(1990)	(1997)	Change*
District of Columbia	48%	35%	-13
Massachusetts	42%	32%	-10
Florida	37%	29%	-8
Arizona	37%	31%	-6
Delaware	40%	35%	-6
Nevada	38%	32%	-6
Rhode Island	36%	30%	-6

* Differences between the first two columns may differ slightly from the figures reported in the "change" column due to rounding.

¹ The term "state" is used to refer to the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the outlying areas.

² Risks are: late (in third trimester) or no prenatal care; low maternal weight gain (less than 21 pounds); mother smoked during pregnancy; or mother drank alcohol during pregnancy.