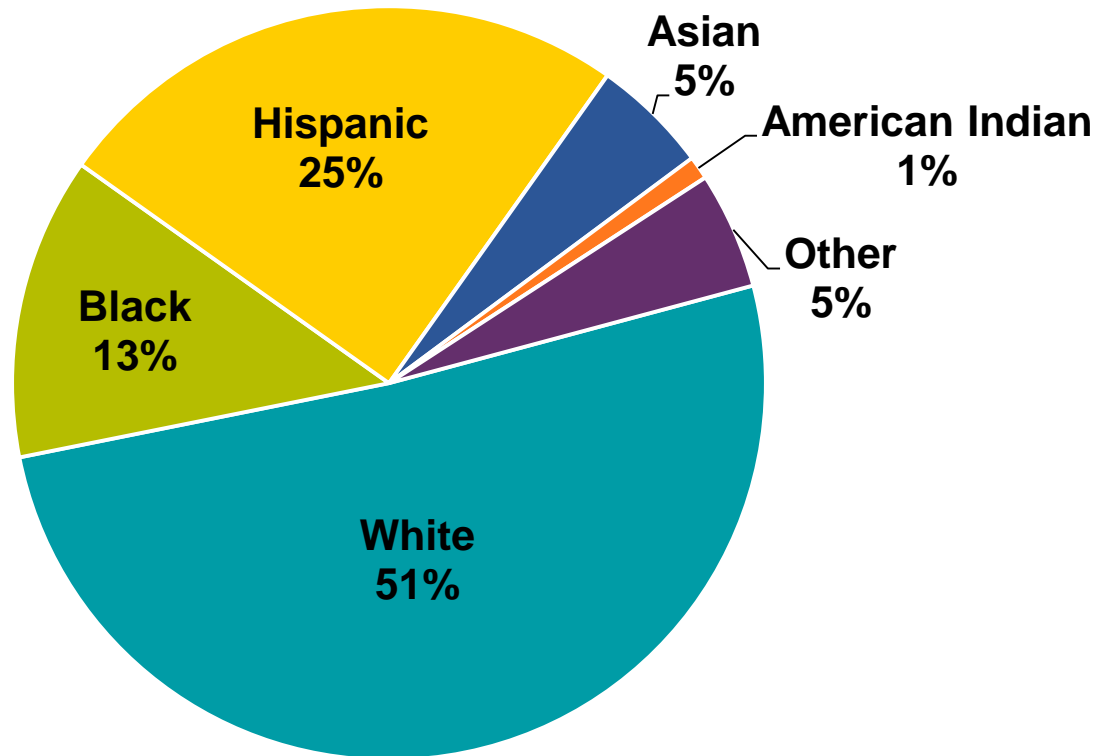


State of America's Babies: 2015

Babies and Toddlers in the U.S.

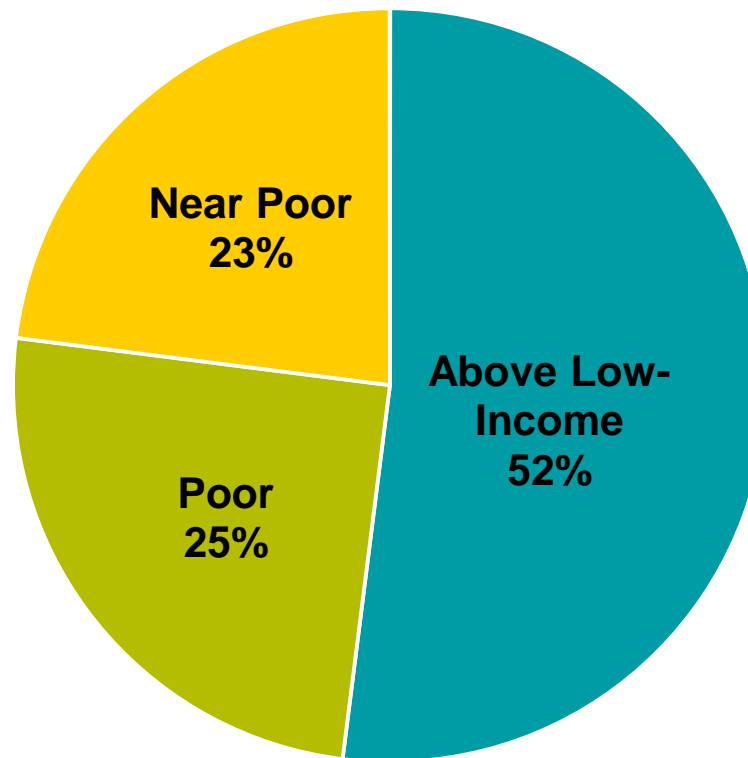
Race/Ethnicity Among Infants and Toddlers



Source: National Center for Children in Poverty, 2013

Strong Families: Infants and Toddlers in Poverty

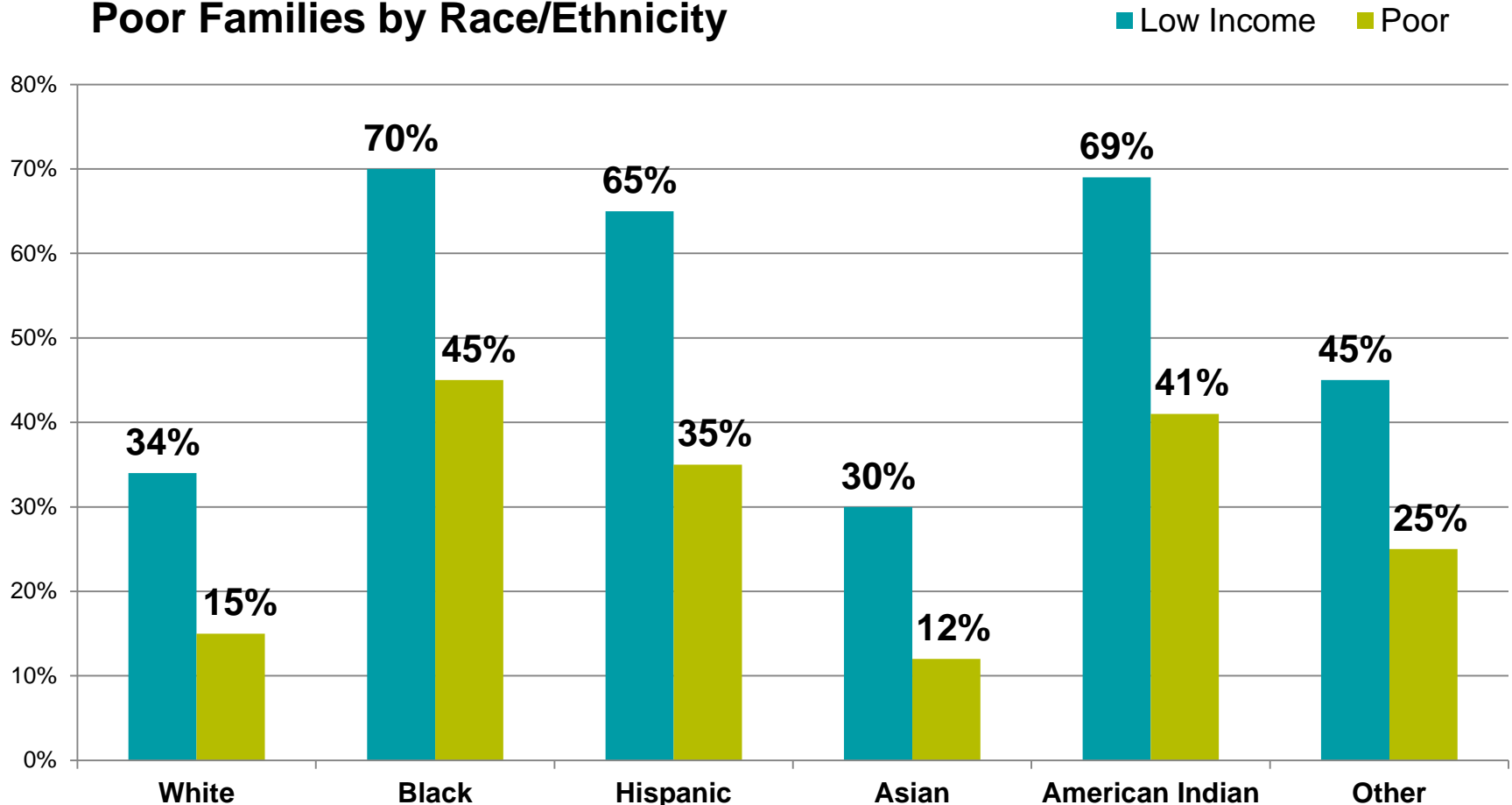
Infants and Toddlers by Family Income



Source: National Center for Children in Poverty, 2013

Strong Families: Infants and Toddlers in Poverty

Infants and Toddlers in Low-Income and Poor Families by Race/Ethnicity



Source: National Center for Children in Poverty, 2013

Strong Families: Infants and Toddlers in Poverty

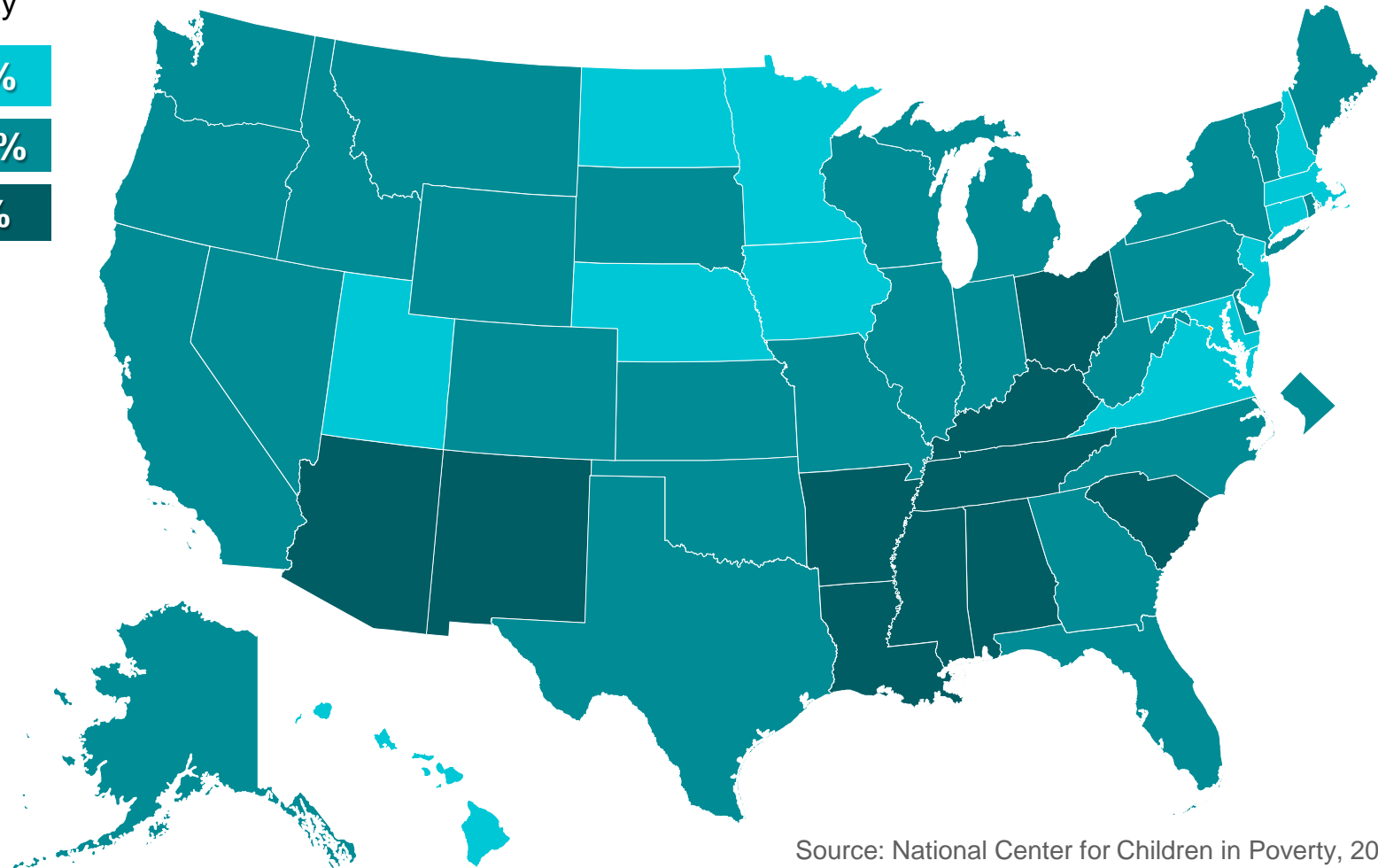
Infants and
Toddlers in
Poverty

**Percent of children under age 3 in families with
an income below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level**

0-19%

20-29%

30+%



Source: National Center for Children in Poverty, 2013

Poverty Impacts Child Development

- **It's not poverty alone:** Economic hardship often goes hand in hand with other environmental stresses.
- **Timing matters:** Early adversity affects the rapidly developing brain at a most sensitive period.
- **Extreme early experiences shape brain architecture:** chronic stress undermines neurological, emotional, and biological development.
- By age 3, almost half of toddlers in poverty have one or more **adverse experiences**.
- They will tend to be **less successful** in school and productive in the labor force, with increases in lifelong health problems

Strong Families



23%

23% of children under age 3 experience residential mobility



21%

21% of households with children under age 6 are food insecure



12%

12% of children under age 3 have parents with no high school degree



27%

27% of child maltreatment victims are under age 3

Strong Families

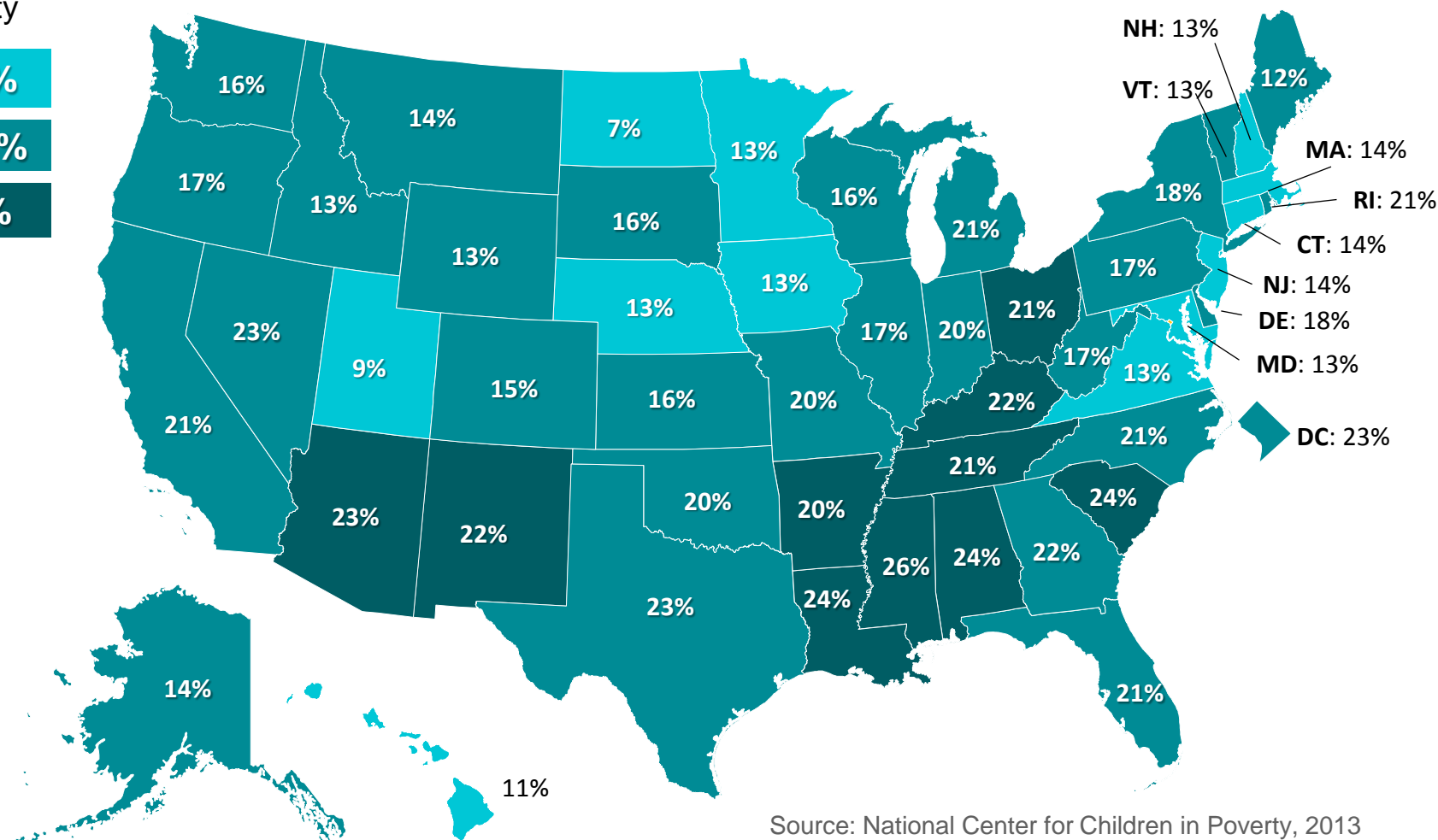
Infants and
Toddlers in
Poverty

0-19%

20-29%

30+%

Children under age 3 who experience 3+ risk factors overlaid on percentage of babies in poverty



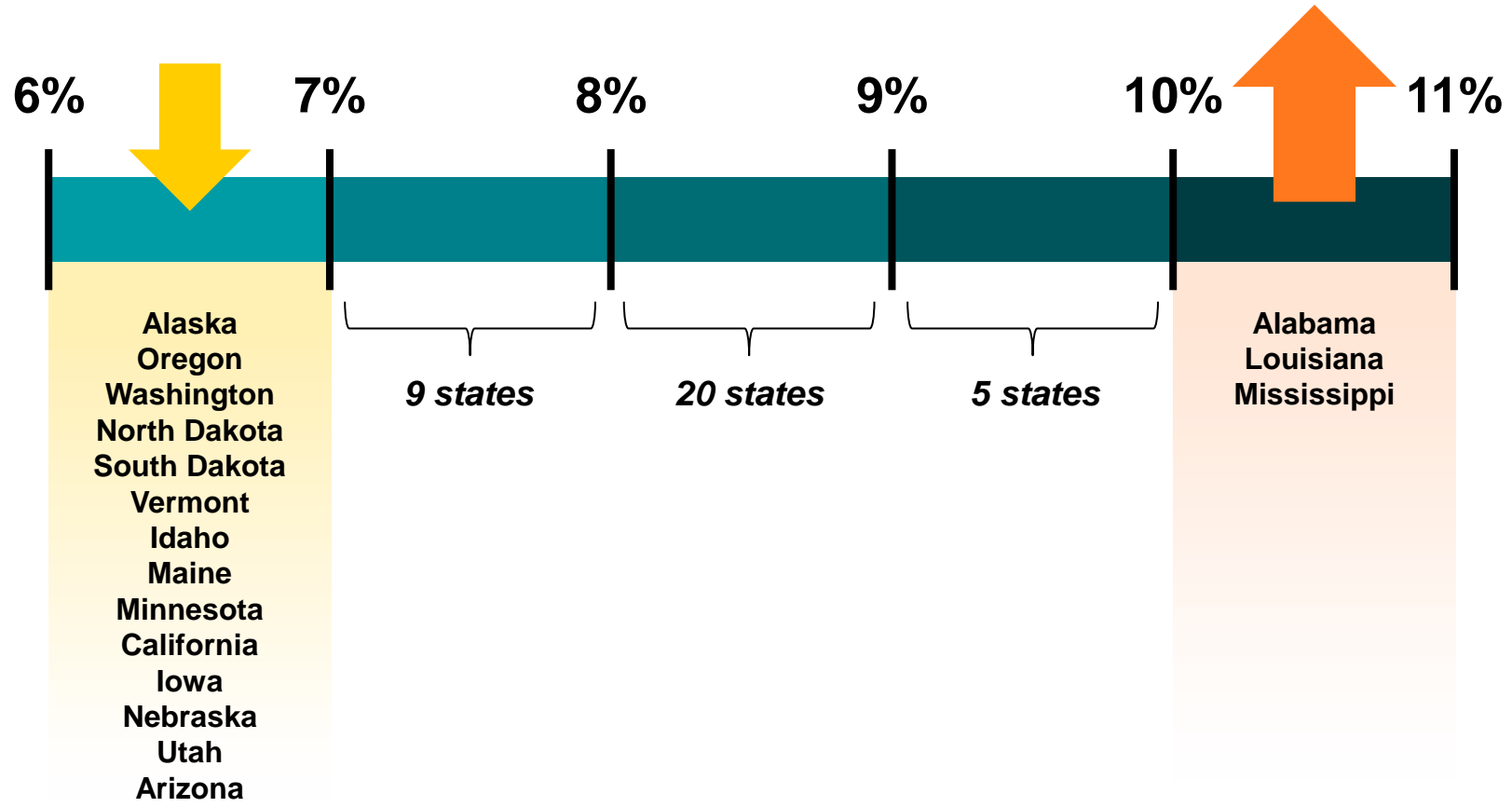
Source: National Center for Children in Poverty, 2013

Strong Families: Key Takeaways

- **Too many of America's families have multiple stressors in their lives.**
 - Financial stress brings anxiety & depression, increasing harsh parenting
 - Child care may be of poor quality & inconsistent.
 - Making ends meet takes its toll: Long hours of maternal employment can negatively effect infant development.
- **Many families experience stress because of other factors: Military families affected by deployment, veterans affected by transition to civilian life.**
- **Strong, nurturing relationships can buffer the effects of chronic stress.**

Good Health: Low Birthweight

Percent of Babies Born With Low Birthweight



Good Health: Low Birthweight by State Infant-Toddler Poverty Rates

Infants and
Toddlers in
Poverty

0-19%

20-29%

30+%

of low
birthweight
babies



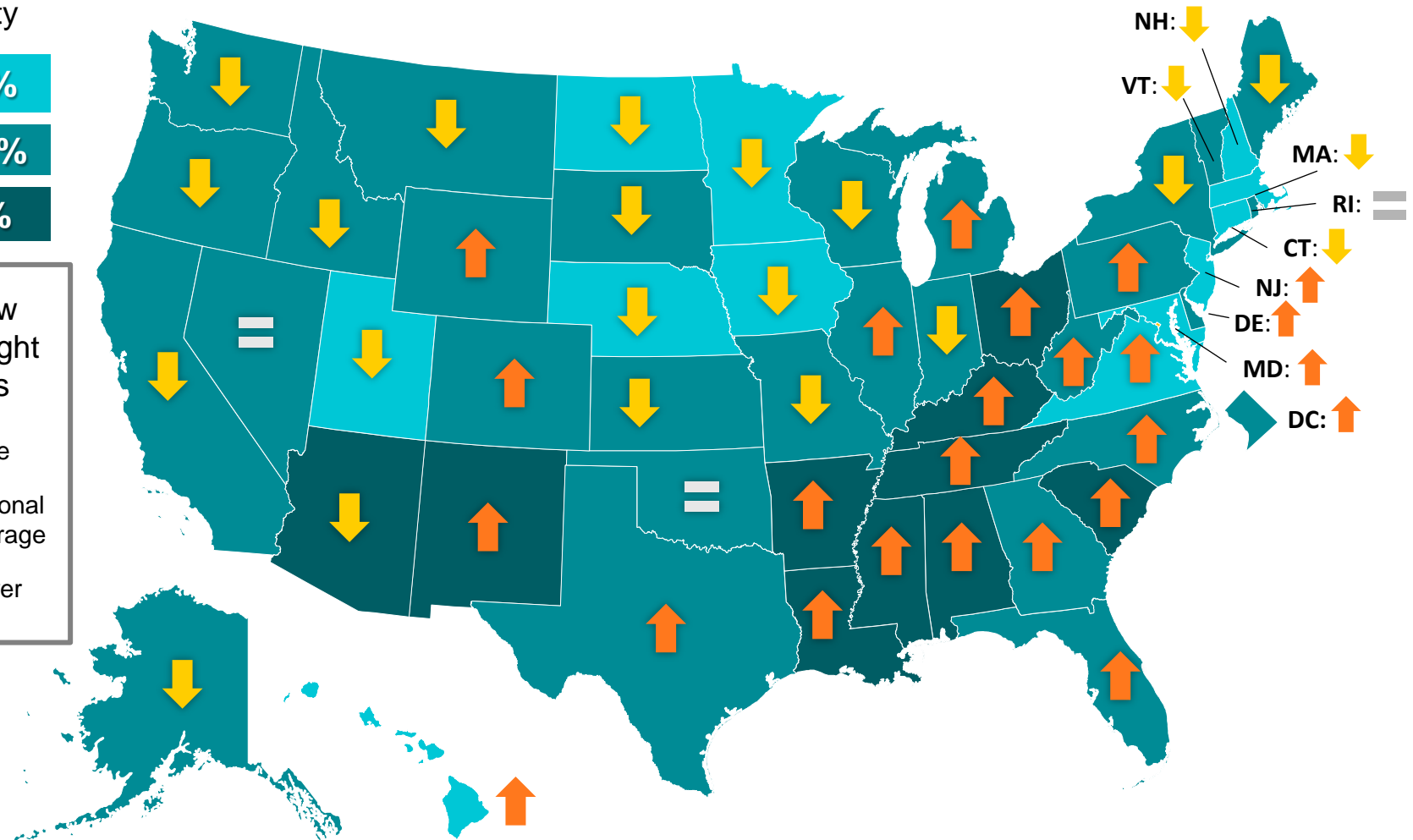
More



National
Average



Fewer



Good Health: Implications

- **Low birthweight increases risk of:**
 - infant mortality
 - long-term disability
 - developmental problems
- **High needs of very low birthweight infants can create parental stress, in turn affecting development**
- **Health impairments impacts school success and achievement:**
 - Lower grades and test scores
 - Poorer cognitive development
 - Less likely to be school ready

Positive Early Learning Experiences

**48 % of parents read to
children 0-5 every day**

48%



62%

**62% of mothers with
infants are in the labor force**



**Average cost of cost of center-based
infant care > 23% of the median
income for single parents**

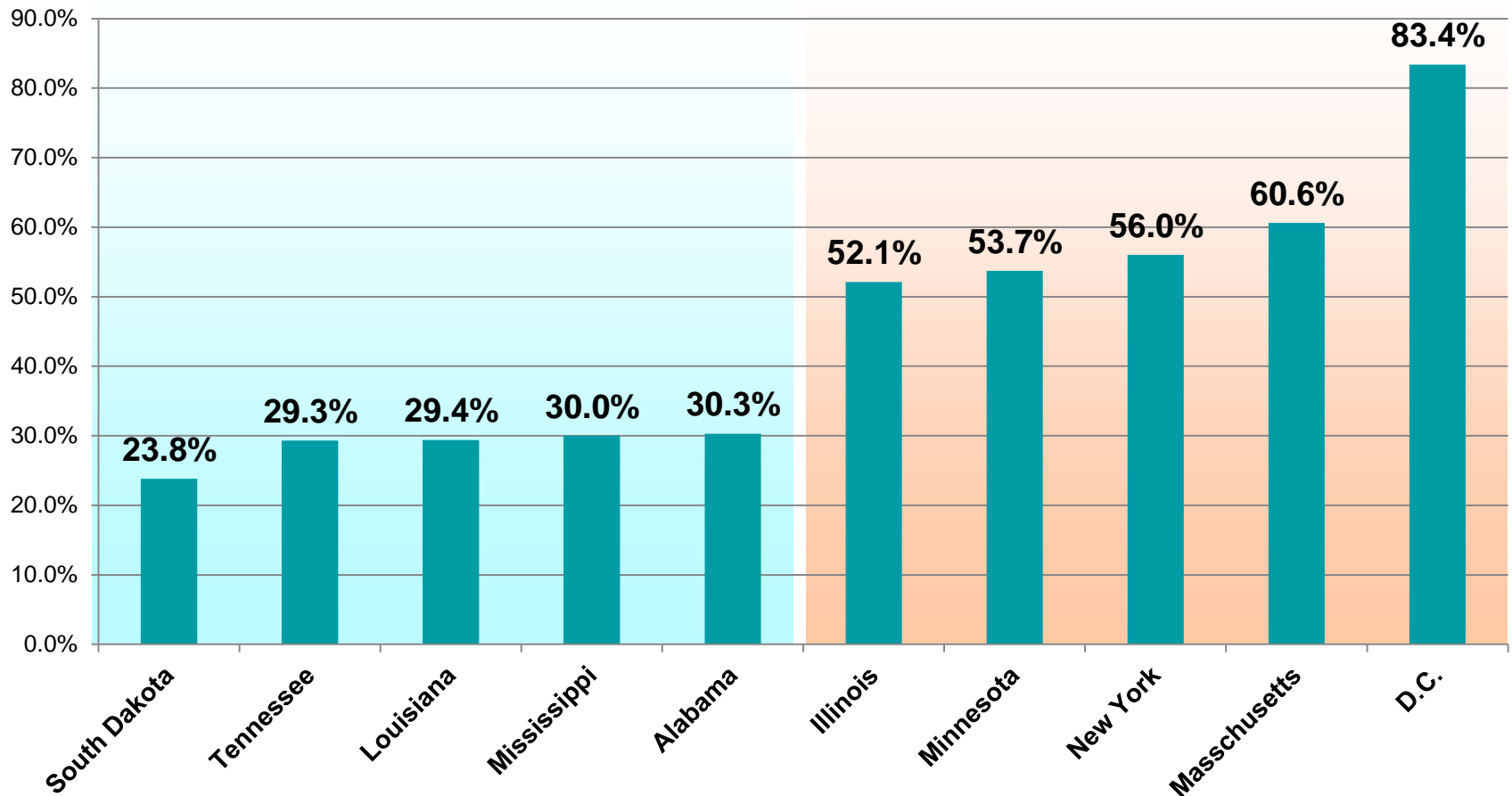
**more than
23%**



Positive Early Learning Experiences

Cost of an Infant's Child Care as Percent of Income

Cost of child care for an infant in a center as
a percent of median income for single mothers



Early Learning: Implications

- **High quality child care has a positive effect on:**
 - Early learning
 - Cognitive and language development
 - Early social and emotional development
 - School readiness
- **The strongest effects of quality child care are found with at-risk children.**

Why Do Babies Matter?

