A Snapshot of Early Childhood Development in American Indian Communities

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*The views expressed here are those of the author and not necessarily those of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis or the Federal Reserve System.
Human Brain Development
Synapse Formation Dependent on Early Experiences

Sensory Pathways (Vision, Hearing)
Language
Higher Cognitive Function

FIRST YEAR

Birth (Months) (Years)

Human Brain...

At Birth

At 6 Years Old

At 14 Years Old

Source: Chugani, Phelps & Mazziotta (1987)
Perry Preschool—Costs and Benefits Over 62 Years

Source: Schweinhart, et al. (2005)
Benefit-Cost Ratios of Early Childhood Longitudinal Studies

- Perry Preschool
  - $16 to $1
- Abecedarian Educational Child Care
  - $7 to $1
- Chicago-Child Parent
  - $10 to $1
- Elmira Prenatal/Early Infancy Project
  - $5 to $1

American Indian population

• About 225,000 Native American/Alaska Native children under age 6 live in the U.S.
• About 40 percent live below poverty
Maternal and Child Health
Births to teen mothers
Per 1,000 population (age 15-19)

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics
Late or no prenatal care
2017

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System
Smoked during pregnancy
2017

Source: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System
Low birthweight*
2017

*Less than 2,500 grams (5 lb 8 oz)
Source: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System
Low birthweight*
American Indian

*Less than 2,500 grams (5 lb 8 oz)
Source: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System, provided by National KIDS COUNT
Preterm births*
2017

*Born prior to 37 completed weeks of gestation based on the obstetric estimate
Source: National Center for Health Statistics, National Vital Statistics System
Breastfeeding
2015

Source: National Immunization Survey, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Adverse Childhood Experiences
Rates of parent-reported ACEs (2011-2012)

Developmental and behavioral outcomes
Provider-diagnosed conditions

Source: Kenney and Singh (2016)
Developmental and behavioral outcomes
Other parent-reported health conditions/needs

Source: Kenney and Singh (2016)
Number of ACEs among participating children (9 asked about)

Source: Kenney and Singh (2016)
Child Maltreatment and Foster Care
Child maltreatment victim rate
2017

Source: Children’s Bureau, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Child maltreatment victims
American Indian

Source: Children’s Bureau, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, provided by National KIDS COUNT
Foster care placement rate
Total children in foster care, 2017

Source: Children’s Bureau, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Children in foster care
American Indian

Source: Children’s Bureau, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, provided by National KIDS COUNT
Education
Percent of children age 3 and 4 in preschool 2017

Percent of fourth grade children proficient in reading 2017

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2017 National Assessment of Educational Progress
Percent of fourth grade children proficient in reading American Indian

Source: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, 2017 National Assessment of Educational Progress
U.S. public high school 4-year graduation rates 2016-2017

Source: National Center for Education Statistics