Child Poverty is a Statewide Problem

Percentage of children living in poverty

51.6% Rochester
49.6% Syracuse
48.9% Buffalo
40.1% Schenectady
35.2% Albany
25.1% Yonkers
22.2% Statewide


Children of color more likely to live in low-income families

“New York State’s widening gap between rich and poor is among the greatest in the nation and income among the bottom fifth of households has barely moved since the 1970s.”


There are just over four million children under age 18 in New York State. Nearly one million of them live in poverty.

Percentage of children under age 18 in NYS living in Poverty

- 22.2% Poverty
- 77.8% Above Poverty


Racial and ethnic minority children are disproportionately poor.

- 32% of New York’s Black or African American children live in poverty, as do 34% of Hispanic or Latino children,
- 19% of Asian or Pacific Islander children, and 14% of Non-Hispanic White children.

The largest number of children living in poverty are Hispanic or Latino.


Wages Matter: Even with the recent increase, New York’s minimum wage alone is not sufficient to lift a family of three out of poverty and it falls far short of the income needed to achieve a modest standard of living. In real purchasing terms, the value of the minimum wage has declined dramatically since its 1968 peak.


The number of children living in poverty in the Bronx is greater than the total population of Syracuse.

Percentage of children living below poverty in New York City boroughs

- Bronx: 42.5%
- Brooklyn: 32.9%
- Manhattan: 24.6%
- Queens: 20.5%
- Staten Island: 17.3%