The State of New York’s Children

A Data Briefing
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@SchuylerCenter

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#stateofNYkids
Public Policy Can – and Should – Make the Ground Fertile for Opportunity
New York CAN improve child well-being – IF our leaders take smart action and place our children first.
With the right foundations: our children can do anything!

- Strong and economically stable families
- Healthy bodies and minds
- Safe homes and communities
- A sound education
Poverty threatens the well-being of 1 in 5 NY children

![Percentage of NY Children in Poverty within Race and Ethnicity, 2016](chart.png)
Forty percent of NY children experience the stress of economic insecurity

4 in 10
[1,612,000]
Children live below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
Quality child care enables parents to work, and provides children early learning opportunities – but high costs are a barrier.

- Average monthly child care payment (infant in center): $1,252
- Median monthly rent: $1,194
- Monthly SUNY college tuition & fees: $706
Hard work no longer guarantees economic security for NY families
Solutions

- Strengthen NYS refundable tax credits
- Expand access to quality child care
- Increase full-day pre-K seats outside NYC
- Fairly compensate and support early childhood workforce
Health in the earliest years — beginning with the future mother’s well-being before she becomes pregnant — strengthens developing biological systems that enable children to thrive and grow up to be healthy adults.

—Center on the Developing Child, Harvard University
Prevention effective but not available.

Unequal progress toward improved health.

Systems not adapting to current challenges.

Needs of families not recognized.

Programs do not work together effectively.
Low uninsured rate = Opportunity

NYS and US Rate of Uninsured Children

- 2009: 8.6% (US) / 5% (NYS)
- 2010: 8% (US) / 5% (NYS)
- 2011: 7.5% (US) / 4% (NYS)
- 2012: 7.2% (US) / 4% (NYS)
- 2013: 7.1% (US) / 4% (NYS)
- 2014: 6.0% (US) / 3% (NYS)
- 2015: 4.8% (US) / 2% (NYS)
- 2016: 4.5% (US) / 2% (NYS)
Collaboration = Opportunity
Next steps

- Equity
- 2 Gen
- Public Health
- Collaboration
Solutions

Protect and expand access to coverage

Improve screening, referral and treatment

Think outside health care system

Ensure a robust public health system
“Early childhood is where the foundations are built for all of the things that a society cares about: from educational achievement to economic productivity, life-long physical and mental health, responsible citizenship, and the ability to be effective parents for the next generation.”

—Dr. Jack Shonkoff, Harvard Center on the Developing Child
Childhood adversity threatens the health of NY’s children

New Yorkers with 1 or More Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE)

- 45.3% Children ages 0-17 experienced at least 1 ACE
- 38.7% Children ages 0-5 experienced at least 1 ACE
- 59.3% Adults experienced at least 1 ACE
- 13.1% Adults experienced at least 4 or more ACEs

30.3% of those growing up in a family making under $15,000/yr experience 3 or more ACEs.
Reports of neglect far outweigh those of abuse

In 2016, more than 71,000 children were involved in indicated reports of abuse/neglect.
NY has dramatically reduced the number of children in foster care.
However, when children do enter care, placements vary…

New York Children in Foster Care by Placement and Location

- New York State:
  - Congregate care: 17.6\% (2,842)
  - Foster boarding homes: 57.4\% (9,266)
  - Approved relative homes: 22.6\% (3,645)

- Upstate:
  - Congregate care: 23.8\% (1,707)
  - Foster boarding homes: 60.2\% (4,330)
  - Approved relative homes: 12.7\% (914)

- New York City:
  - Congregate care: 12.7\% (1,135)
  - Foster boarding homes: 55.1\% (4,936)
  - Approved relative homes: 30.5\% (2,731)

(Note: “Other” category was omitted)
Including placement with a relative

- Total number of children in foster care
- Children in foster care with a relative

NYS: 16,139
- 3,645 (22.6%)

NYC: 8,952
- 2,731 (30.5%)
Invest in primary prevention to strengthen families before any risk of abuse or neglect

Strengthen & prioritize family-based foster care

Expand evidence-based prevention through Family First Act

Increase support for kinship families