The State of New York’s Children

A Data Briefing
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#StateofNYKids

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Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy
Since 1872, the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy has advanced policies that improve child health and well-being, enable families to achieve economic security, and augment quality early childhood opportunities so that all New York children have a fair opportunity to thrive.

There are more than 6,000 registered lobbyists in New York State; most of them are not focused on disenfranchised children and families. We are.
COVID-19 in NYS

- 36,000+ have perished from COVID-19, many leaving children or grandchildren behind.
- 3.9 million more filed for unemployment in 2020 than 2019.
- 1.5 million reported in 11/2020 their households “sometimes or often” did not have enough food and hundreds of thousands are behind on rent or mortgage payments.
- Due to long-standing structural racism and inequity, NYers of color and immigrants have borne the brunt of the pandemic, disproportionately falling gravely ill and succumbing to the virus, while also facing job loss, hunger and housing instability disproportionately.
What All New York Children Need to Thrive

- Strong and economically stable families
- Healthy bodies and minds
- Safe homes and communities
- A sound education
Our kids – particularly our young kids whose brains are developing at break-neck speed – are set on a path to thrive when raised in an economically secure family, and have access to high-quality early learning opportunities.

Pre-pandemic, 18% of NY children lived in poverty; 37% lived in near poverty.
New York must act with urgency to prevent an enduring post-pandemic rise in child poverty

- NY child poverty after the Great Recession rose to 23% in 2011, where it stayed until 2014.
- For Black children, child poverty hit a post-Great Recession peak of 35% in 2013.
- For Latino/Hispanic children, child poverty hit a high of 36% in 2011.

It took New York a decade to tangibly reduce child poverty after the Great Recession. We must do better post-pandemic.
Child care costs undermine family economic security and deprive children of early education

Applying the 7% of income federal affordability rule, to afford the average annual cost of center-based child care for two children ($24,564), a family must earn a minimum of $350,914.

COMPARE:

- State Median Income/Family of 4: $100,377
- Family income, two adults earning NYC’s minimum wage of $15/hr: $62,400
- Family income, one adult earning NYC’s minimum wage of $15/hr: $31,200
Reduce child poverty
Get COVID relief to families quickly
Fulfill promise of universal pre-K
Expand access to child care
The pandemic has underscored what we already know: all children and youth need strong birth, kin, and foster families.
Over time, New York has steadily reduced the number of children in foster care.
Black and brown children continue to be disproportionately represented in child welfare

Disparity Index: Rate of Black, Hispanic, Native American children in child welfare reports and placement relative to comparable rate for white children

- Over 3.5 indicates extreme disparity
- Over 2.5 indicates high disparity
- Over 1.5 indicates moderate disparity
- Over 1 indicates disparity

- Blue: Children in SCR reports relative to comparable rate for white children
- Orange: Children in indicated SCR reports relative to comparable rate for white children
- Green: Children in foster care relative to comparable rate for white children
Children experience better outcomes when cared for by supportive families.
The 2019 increase in KinGAP placements is good news!
Reduce child poverty

Support transition-age youth

Strengthen preventive services

Support family-based and kinship care
Health: Complete state of physical, mental and social-emotional well-being. Not just the absence of disease or infirmity.
Child Health At This Time

- Loss of economic security ➔ poverty, homelessness, hunger & food insecurity.
- Lack access to school and community services and supports.
- Behavioral health, child development, toxic stress.
- Missed routine primary and preventive care.
Good News: New York is a leader in coverage
Target Efforts to Reach Uninsured Children

Children without health insurance, race/ethnicity, 2019

- American Indian/Alaskan Native: N/A estimate suppressed due to small sample size
- Asian/Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander: 2.8%
- Black/African-American: 2.5%
- Other: 2.4%
- Hispanic: 2.3%
- White: 2.2%
- White alone (Not Hispanic): 2.2%
Reduce child poverty

Enact continuous eligibility

Fund primary and preventive health care

Fund public health

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As of August 2020, children made up **39%** of Medicaid/CHIP enrollment in New York.

Based on 2018 Census data, 42% of children are on Medicaid/CHIP.

When it comes to public coverage, New York does right by kids!

- New York is the only state in which the number of uninsured children **dropped** between 2016 and 2019 (October 2020).
- The uninsured rate for Latino children is **four times lower** than the national Latino children uninsured rate (October 2020).
Over 700,000 new enrollees turned to Medicaid for their health coverage since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic.
Providing comprehensive Medicaid coverage for pregnant women and children results in:

- Long-term health benefits
- Educational achievement
- Greater economic security, as well as government ROI

(December 2020)
Reduce child poverty

Consider overall well-being

Protect Medicaid to reach greater equity

Remember the intent of the program
Reduce child poverty

Invest in prevention: child welfare, health/mental health, early care and learning

Focus tax policy on low-income families

Incorporate equity into all policy & budget decisions