

DATA BOOK JANUARY 2022

SCHUYLER CENTER FOR ANALYSIS AND ADVOCACY



www.scaany.org

INTRODUCTION

marked the second perfect that for many children—particularly our youngest—is an analy known or remember. Politically, 2021 was a year of change for New Yorkers: it marked the second pandemic year, a year in which New Yorkers fell into a strained "new normal" that for many children—particularly our youngest—is all they have began with a new President and ended with a new Governor. For many New York families, 2021 brought critical public supports, including a third federal pandemic stimulus payment and an expanded monthly child tax credit, buffering many from the pandemic's sharpest economic impacts. Yet, New York families and children are not out of jeopardy. In December 2021, both the US Surgeon General and the American Academy of Pediatrics sounded the alarm about an escalating mental health crisis facing the nation's youth. With COVID resurging, parents are once again juggling work with remote schooling, child care closures, and guarantine, and worrying anew about how to keep their children—particularly young children ineligible for vaccines—safe. Despite the challenges, as the data in this book show, there is good reason to believe that with continued strong public health measures; effective, equitable government interventions; and a bold, innovative rebuilding strategy, the future for New York children is bright.

Much of the data in our 2022 book is encouraging. Over 70% of New Yorkers are fully vaccinated, compared to the national average of 62%. The stimulus payments and expanded federal child tax credit kept child poverty from rising; unemployment rates are nearing pre-pandemic levels; public health insurance coverage filled the gaps for many who otherwise would have lost coverage; and many families were saved from eviction by the moratorium. These successful policies underscore the importance of public intervention in improving the well-being of children and families.

The data also underscore the areas of challenge facing the state. Racial disparities persist: in COVID-19 fatalities, parental mental health, maternal and child health, and child welfare. Gender and racial disparities persist in unemployment rates and income. Families continue to struggle with food insecurity and lack of access to health, mental health, and child care. The public, private, and community-based human services that support children and families are experiencing a dire workforce crisis due to historical underfunding, compounded by the impacts of the pandemic. Child poverty rates in New York remain far higher than the national average.

While many of the public policies that have helped families navigate this last tumultuous year are temporary, they show us the way forward. With strong family-focused initiatives, like fully refundable tax credits; high-quality child care and pre-K; paid family leave; fair wages; and access to home visiting, early intervention and mental health care, New York children and families can emerge from the pandemic healthier, stronger, and set up to thrive.

Our children are a beautiful example of our diversity. More than half of New York's children are Black or brown, and more than one third are in immigrant families.



NEW YORK STATE OVERVIEW

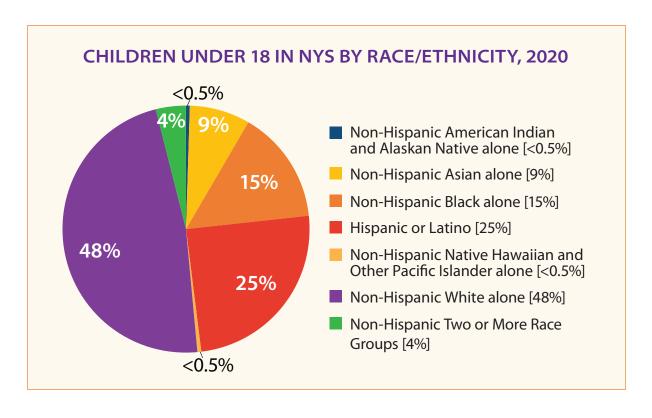
3,988,354

NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 18, 2020

21%
CHILDREN AS A
PERCENTAGE OF NEW YORK'S
POPULATION, 2020



1,108,325 NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER AGE 5, 2020



Celebrating 150 Years of Advocacy, Compassion, **Leadership—and Data**



or our entire 150-year history we have been doing a version of the State of New York's Children report: calling attention to the issues most urgently impacting New Yorkers' health and well being, and advocating for change in the form of evidence-based public policies.

Our approach to the research has changed, but the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy has remained rooted in advocacy on behalf of New York's children, families, and communities impacted by poverty.

Back in 1872, SCAA founder Louisa Lee Schuyler gathered data by organizing visiting committees of citizens to inspect the almshouses and poorhouses of each of the 60 counties of New York State. The committees then submitted detailed annual reports of the findings, with recommendations for policy improvements, to the NYS Board of State Commissioners of Public Charities. This work was the foundation for the State Charities Aid Association, now the Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy.

One-hundred-fifty years later, Schuyler Center's data-gathering methods have evolved, but our end goal is the same: use data to shine a light on how New York's children, families, and communities are faring in the areas of health, education, economic security, and child welfare.

Louisa's Legacy

In addition to her belief in evidence-based advocacy, Louisa Lee Schuyler put in place other principles that quide us to this day: a belief in advocating for policies to support those residents often underserved and overlooked; a dedication to children's welfare; and a commitment to advocacy that is fueled by compassion for others.

Louisa put those beliefs into action, and her work set in motion many changes that New York State residents benefit from to this day: oversight of housing for New Yorkers living in poverty, including changing the way children facing poverty were treated; establishing the nation's first nursing school; and advocating on behalf of disenfranchised communities for more humane state policies.

As we commemorate the 150th anniversary of our founding, Schuyler Center continues to live out Louisa's legacy of advancing policies that will improve the lives of New Yorkers for generations to come, and set us on a path to ending child poverty.

f Those who unite with us as active workers, must bring with them an earnest hope and a large patience. They must overlook present discouragement for the sake of the great and lasting results to be attained in what may be a far-off future. They must remember that the first step toward the reform of our present Poor-law system, is by faithfully and persistently exposing its defects. Their work will... soon or later bear fruit. No worker need join our ranks who cannot bear discouragement. No giver is asked to support it who cannot recognize its scope and value. That, under these circumstances, both workers and givers have been found who, for three years, have faithfully arrived on this reform movement in spite of all its discouragements, and whose numbers are constantly increasing, strengthens our faith and gives us renewed hope for the coming year.

—Louisa Lee Schuyler, SCAA Annual Report, 1875

COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic has reshaped lives and livelihoods.

New York has been buffeted by the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020, impacting all New Yorkers, but none so sharply as those from low-income and Black and brown communities. This is the context in which we discuss the state of New York children. Now, almost two years since the onset of the pandemic and with mass COVID-19 vaccinations available, the pandemic continues to affect the lives of New York children. It is likely the negative impacts will be profound and lasting.

COVID Deaths and Disparities

- As of December 19, 2021, 60,253 New Yorkers had died due to COVID-19.
- As of June 2021, 7,175 New York children lost a parent or caregiver to COVID-19.
- In NYC, people of color have died disproportionately from COVID-19. Black people make up 22% of the population and 27% of the COVID-19 fatalities. Persons of Hispanic origin make up 29% of the population and 34% of fatalities.

Vaccinations

- By December 2021, 82% of New Yorkers received one dose of a COVID-19 Vaccine and 71% completed the Vaccine Dose Series compared to national averages of 73% and 62%.
- While most New Yorkers have received a COVID-19 vaccine series, the vaccination rates for children ages 5-11 (15.1%) and 12-17 (63.8%) continue to lag due to newly being eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.

Health, Mental Health, Coverage, and Care

- Enrollment in Medicaid increased, with small increases in child coverage and larger increases among adults. States were required to keep people enrolled in Medicaid throughout the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE) as a condition of receiving a temporary increase in the federal share of Medicaid costs.
- Nationally, use of health care services among children covered by Medicaid and CHIP declined during the public health emergency. Data show 2% fewer vaccinations, 6% fewer child screening services, 24% fewer outpatient mental health services, and 24% fewer dental services.
- ▶ Telehealth surged during the pandemic, showing an increase (nationally) of more than 3,700% compared to the same period two years prior. In some months during 2021, as many as 29% of NYS households

- with children had an appointment with a health professional by phone or video.
- ▶ The US Surgeon General issued an advisory calling youth mental health a crisis that has been exacerbated during the pandemic, saying that "even before the pandemic, an alarming number of young people struggled with feelings of helplessness, depression, and thoughts of suicide—and rates have increased."

Technology Gaps

Access to the internet and devices has become an essential lifeline for participating in on-line school, attending appointments with doctors and social workers, and working remotely. A 2020 survey of NYS schools found 6% (165,762) of students have insufficient internet access and 8% (215,948) do not have access to a dedicated computing device.

Poverty and Hunger

- The Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) adds the value of in-kind benefits, such as food and housing assistance, stimulus payments, and refundable tax credits, to the pre-tax income the traditional poverty measure relies upon. It shows that pandemic relief programs softened the economic blow of the pandemic: the SPM rate declined from 11.4% in 2019 to 9.1% in 2020.
- National data show significant racial inequities in food security, especially for Black and Hispanic households with children. Overall, expanded government nutrition programs, unemployment benefits, and stimulus payments held steady the average rate of food insecurity. However, food insecurity grew in Black and Hispanic households with children.
- In December 2021, 13.1% (nearly 1.7 million) of New York adults reported there was "sometimes" or "often" not enough to eat in their household in the last 7 days (12/1/21-12/13/21).

Child Poverty

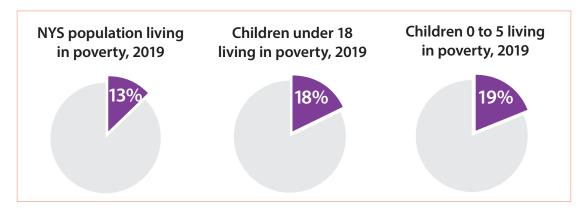
Approximately 648,000 New York children were living in poverty in 2020; data suggest that number would be much greater in the absence of the robust pandemic unemployment and other benefits that sustained many NY families during the height of the pandemic.



Even temporary experiences of poverty can affect children's well-being:

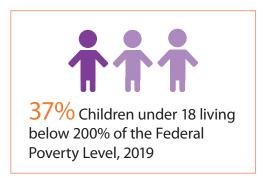
- ▶ Poverty affects the social, emotional, and cognitive well-being of developing children and babies.
- ▶ Poverty creates and widens achievement gaps.
- ▶ Poverty increases the likelihood of child welfare involvement.

New York entered the pandemic with the youngest New Yorkers experiencing poverty at the highest rates—at just the moment in their development when they stand to be most harmed by poverty's impacts.



Nationally, poverty rates for people under the age of 18 increased from 14.4% in 2019 to 16.1% in 2020. Unemployment insurance prevented a much greater surge; 1.4 million more children would have experienced poverty had their families not had access to unemployment benefits.

In 2019, more than one-third of New York children lived in near-poverty, with little economic cushion to buffer them from the economic disruptions of the pandemic.

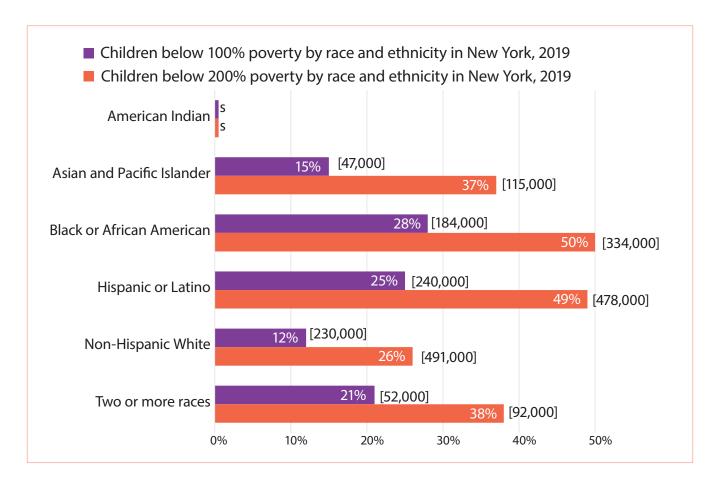


Even more vulnerable to the pandemic's disruptions were the 332,000 (8%) of New York children living in extreme poverty in 2019.



8% Children under 18 in extreme poverty, below 50% of the Federal Poverty Level, 2019

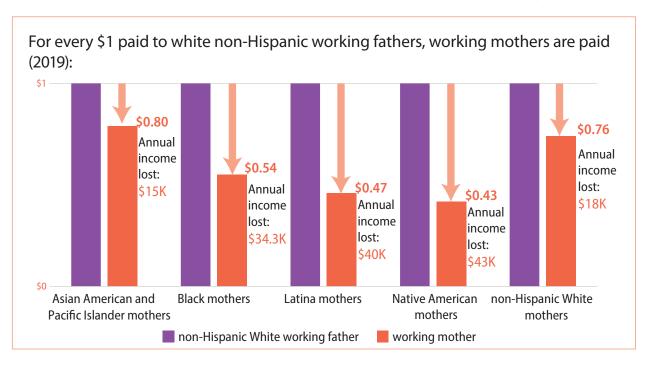
Due to systemic, historical, and ongoing racism, New York's Black and brown children have long experienced poverty and near-poverty at higher rates than white children, leaving their families with few reserves to fall back on when the pandemic overwhelmed the state.



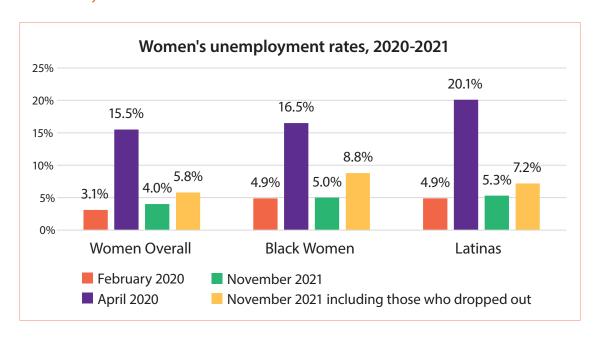
New York leads the nation in income inequality which, like poverty, contributes to negative outcomes for children. The divide in New York is stark: the top 1% of New Yorkers make 44.4 times more than the bottom 99%, while nationally, the top 1% make 26.3 times the bottom 99%.

COVID-19 disrupted/delayed publication of Census data on child poverty; comparable 2020 data are not available at time of publication.

New York children suffer when their mothers, grandmothers, or other female caregivers are paid unfairly because of their gender. With women disproportionately forced to leave the labor market for extended periods during the pandemic, earnings disparities may grow worse in the coming years.



While the national rate of women's unemployment has improved significantly since this time last year, the rate still exceeds the pre-pandemic rate, and even more so if the 1.4 women who have dropped out of the labor force are counted among the unemployed. With the pandemic resurging, there is concern women will, once again, be disproportionately forced to drop back or drop out of the workforce to care for children who cannot attend in-person school, afterschool programs, or child care, to the detriment of the economic security of women and their children.



High numbers of New York children experienced housing instability and homelessness before the pandemic-triggered retraction of the economy and spike in unemployment.

143,533

Students identified as homeless, 2019-2020

1,016,000

Children in low-income households with a high housing cost burden, 2019 (>30% monthly income on housing) 1 in 5

Children living in crowded housing (more than 1 person per room), 2019

Two years into the pandemic, hundreds of thousands of New York families are behind in rent and mortgage payments. While housing eviction moratoriums and stimulus relief have saved many families from eviction, without long-term relief, many may face eviction in the near future.

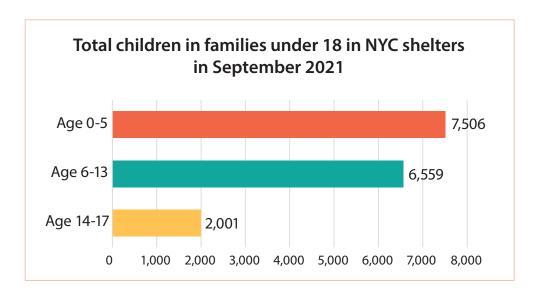
14%

14% of respondents to a survey of NYS households that pay rent and include children reported being behind on rental payments (October 2021).



20% of surveyed NYS households that pay mortgages and include children reported being behind on mortgage payments (October 2021).

In a typical month in 2021, more than 16,000 New York City children and their families resided in a homeless shelter.



Child Poverty

State and federal income and food supports—including pandemic relief—have protected hundreds of thousands of New York children from some of the harshest impacts of poverty.

Children in families receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI), cash public assistance income, or SNAP [965,000], 2019	24%
Average monthly benefit for SNAP households with children in New York, 2019 (During the COVID-19 state of emergency, benefits increased by 15%. As of October 2021, benefits were permanently increased by 21%)	\$377
Average federal monthly SSI benefit per New York child, December 2020	\$701
Estimated monthly TANF benefit for a family of three, 2020	\$648-\$836
COVID-19 Stimulus Check, March 2021 Individuals whose adjusted gross income (AGI) was \$75,000 or less Additional amount per child claimed as dependent	\$1,200 \$500
Average monthly SNAP, SSI, TANF, and 2020 pandemic stimulus payment	\$0

2021 brought overdue relief for some of New York's immigrant families: March 2021 pandemic stimulus payments were available to mixed-status families, meaning 184,000 of the 211,000 NY children excluded from the April 2020 payment were eligible for the 2021 payment. Another source of support in 2021: the NY Excluded Workers Fund, which has disbursed more than \$2 billion in relief funds to more than 130,000 New Yorkers. Unfortunately, 220,000 more claims were denied, and countless more turned away due to insufficient funds.

Emerging national data is confirming how effective refundable tax credits can be in reducing child poverty, particularly if targeted to reach the poorest and youngest. New York is overdue to expand its credits to include the youngest and lowestincome residents.

Empire State Child Credit, 2019

for many immigrants in New York



1,369,691

Total number of families receiving credit



Average claim amount



Excluded: children under age 4 and those living in extreme poverty.

State Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), 2019



1,483,377

Total number of EITC claims



Average credit for family with 2 children



Excluded: young childless adults 18 through 24, New Yorkers living in extreme poverty, and many otherwise eligible immigrant New Yorkers.

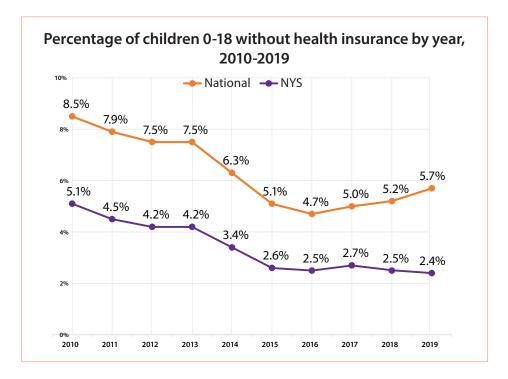
Health

The pandemic continues to reveal the importance of prevention, public health, comprehensive health insurance coverage, and access to care.

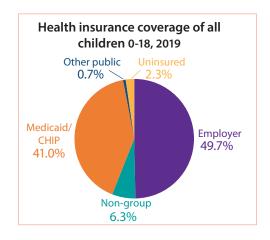


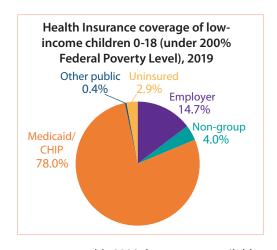
New York has long been a leader in covering children; the pandemic's disparate impacts on health, employment, and income demonstrate the importance of robust public health insurance.

During the public health emergency, special rules protected Medicaid and CHIP enrollees from losing health coverage, but New York must be diligent to ensure children and caregivers retain coverage when the public health emergency ends.

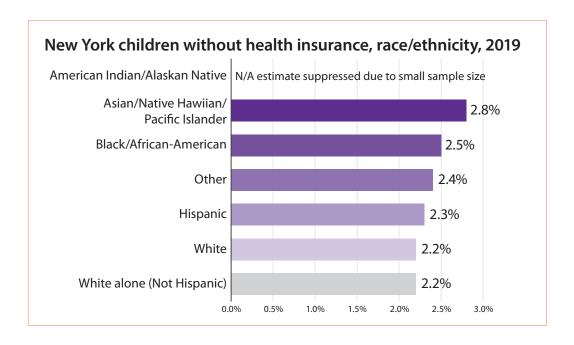


Most New York children in low-income families are covered by Medicaid & CHIP.



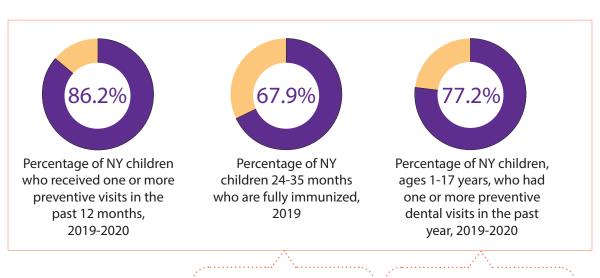


COVID-19 disrupted/delayed publication of Census data on children's insurance; comparable 2020 data are not available at time of publication.



Prevention and screening are designed to keep children healthy and give families more control over their own health.

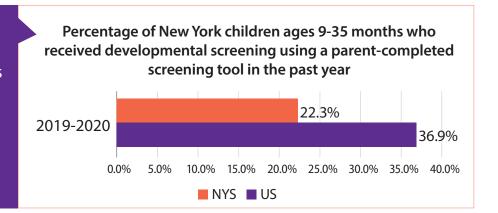
COVID-related shut-downs caused children to miss critical vaccinations and other primary and preventive services. New York must prioritize getting children the care they missed and allow payment for services in the places where children are—like schools and child care.



National data show that young children between 19-35-months old living in households below the federal poverty level are 17.5% less likely to be fully vaccinated compared with those living in households at or above the federal poverty level.

National data show between 2019 and 2020, the percentage of children who had a dental examination or cleaning in the past 12 months decreased in all regions of the US.

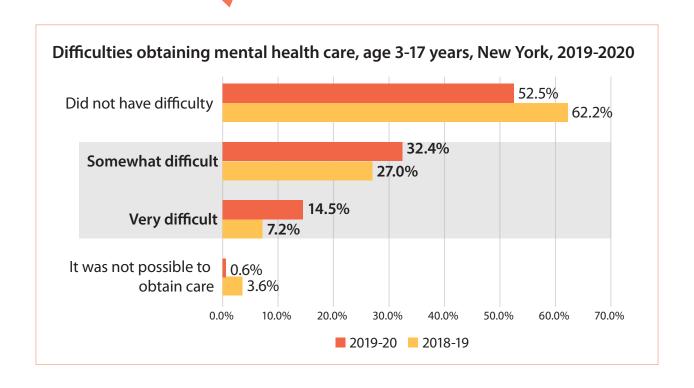
Developmental screening evaluates how a child is developing. Identifying delays or disabilities early helps children receive appropriate services to prevent falling behind and suffering longterm disadvantages.



The pandemic has taken a tremendous toll on children's mental health. This is exacerbated by a shortage of New York providers and services available to meet needs.



For the 22.3% of New York children ages 3-17 who have a mental, emotional, developmental or behavioral problem, getting needed care can be difficult.



Timely prenatal care reduces risks for mothers and infants. While the percentage of women receiving prenatal care early in pregnancy has increased, disparities persist.

Pregnant mothers of color in New York and their newborns experience unacceptably poor health outcomes. Structural racism and other systemic barriers contribute to these poor outcomes.

Indicator	Black	Asian/Pacific Islander	White	Hispanic
Births with early (1st trimester) prenatal care by race and ethnicity, 2016-2018	64.8%	77.9%	82.2%	70.9%
Low birthweight births by race and ethnicity (<5.5lbs), 2016-2018	12.6%	8.6%	6.3%	8.1%

Maternal mental health issues have been under-recognized and under-diagnosed, yet the negative effects of poor maternal mental health on mother and child are well researched and clear. Infants need engaged, attentive, and nurturing caregivers to thrive, and when mothers are unable to engage in a loving and nurturing way, their children's health and development suffer.

Research suggests postpartum depression may be underreported because of fear and concerns about stigma. New York health care providers are responding by increasing screening for perinatal mood disorders.

	Non-Hispanic			
Indicator	Black	White	Other	Hispanic
Percentage of pregnant women who were asked by a health care worker if they were feeling down or depressed, 2018	84.4%	65.2%	64.5%	85.8%
Percentage of women who experienced depressive symptoms after giving birth, 2018	17.5%	11.5%	19.6%	9.8%

Child Welfare

New York's children and youth thrive when all families, caregivers, and communities are well-supported.



Child welfare preventive services, including home visiting, housing assistance, child care, parent training, clinical services, transportation, job training, and cash grants, are designed to help families stay together and provide an environment where children can thrive. While New York State provides tens of thousands of children and families these supportive services, many families go without.

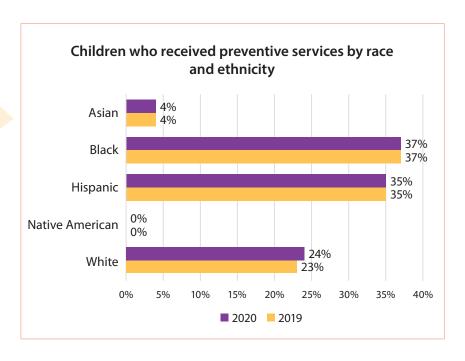
Number of children and families authorized to receive preventive services			
	2019	2020	
TOTAL CHILDREN	94,744	80,825	
TOTAL FAMILIES	47,022	40,009	

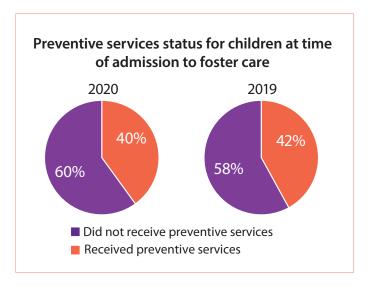
New York infants are significantly more likely to be placed in foster care, and significantly less likely to receive preventive services before placement, than older children.



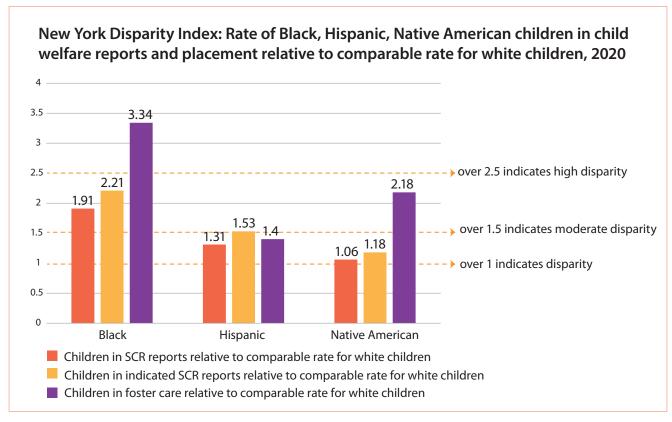
In 2020, 22% of all children admitted into foster care were under age 1 (1,398 out of a total of 6,349 admitted); 29% of children who did not receive services before entering foster care that year (1,128 out of 3,824) were under the age of 1.

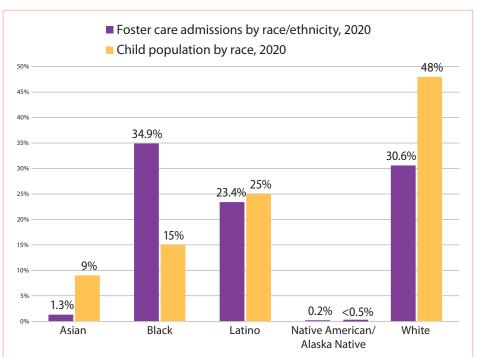
Most New York children who are admitted to foster care are removed from their homes before their family has received services. Families are still reeling from the impacts of the pandemic; timely access to robust supportive services are crucial to recovery.





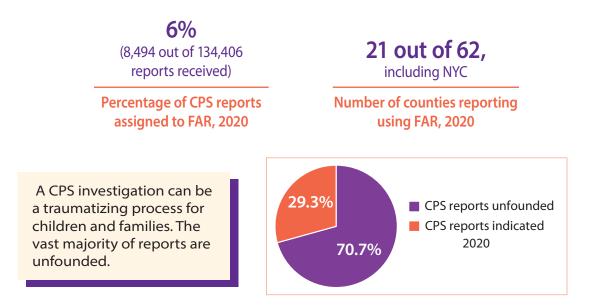
Due to racial bias, Black children are nearly twice as likely as white children to be reported to State Central Register (SCR); more than twice as likely to be in indicated reports; and over three times more likely to be in foster care. New York State has acknowledged the racial disparities and taken steps to address them, but implementation has just begun.



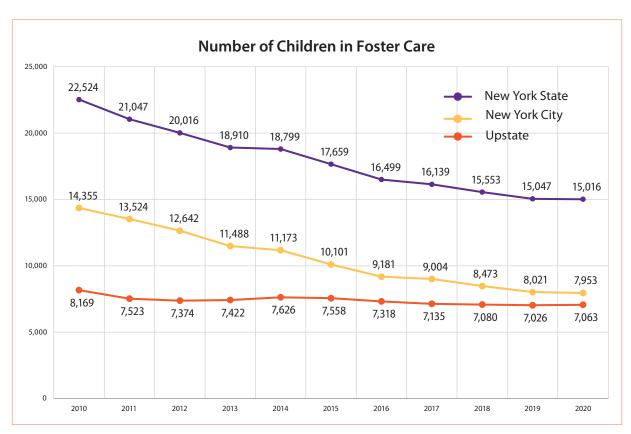


Black children are disproportionately represented in New York's foster care system, representing nearly 35% of children in foster care, but only 15% of New York children.

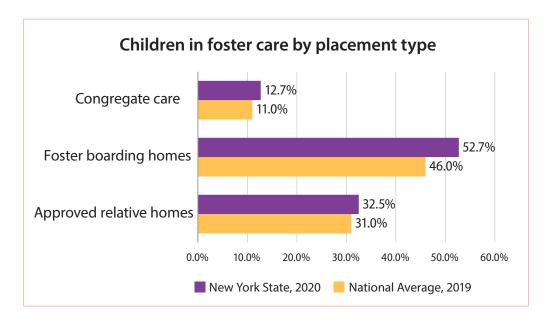
New York's Family Assessment Response (FAR), a preventive approach, provides a solution-focused option for families to partner with Child Protective Services (CPS) to keep their children safely at home. FAR can be a helpful resource for families in need. At a time when families urgently need to be connected with supportive services, FAR remains underused.



New York's substantial investment in preventive services has helped reduce the number of children placed in foster care over time.



When children must be removed from their families, placing them with kin means they are more likely to stay in their communities of origin and with siblings, and experience better mental and behavioral health outcomes. While New York is better at placing children in relative foster homes than the national average, it exceeds the national average for placing children in congregate care. Prioritizing finding kin and better supporting kin and family-based care may result in more New York children growing up in family settings where they thrive.





More than 1,000 youth over the age of 18 were discharged from foster care in 2020. Some youth between the ages of 18 and 21 in foster care are unable to find a permanent family before they leave, or "age out," of care.

The pandemic hit transition-age and former foster youth hard. Respondents in a 2021 survey reported experiencing:

- challenges that caused them to fall behind or abandon their education;
- unmet medical and behavioral health needs;
- unstable and substandard living situations;
- food insecurity;
- underemployment and low wage jobs;
- emotional and physical repercussions of enduring chronic stress.

These experiences highlight the importance of ensuring no child leaves foster care without a family.

Early Childhood Care and Well Being

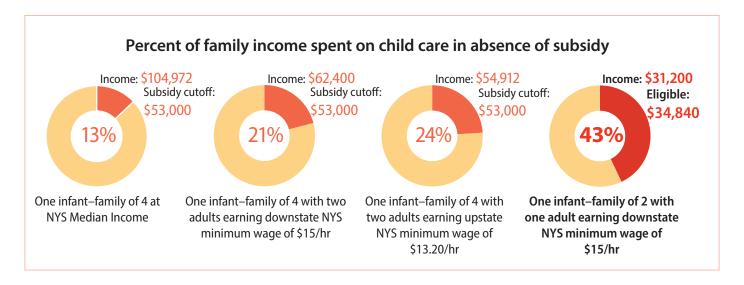
Broad access to high-quality early childhood experiences can improve school readiness and reduce inequalities for children, enable parents—especially women—to achieve economic security, and improve the productivity of businesses.



Many New York families struggle to find and afford child care. According to federal guidance pegging affordability at no more than 7% of family income, child care is unaffordable for most New York families with young children, yet the vast majority of families must shoulder the costs on their own.



Child care is the largest monthly bill for many New York families, costing on average \$2,047 per month (\$24,564 per year) for two children in a child care center or \$1,115 per month (\$13,390 per year) for one infant in a child care center.

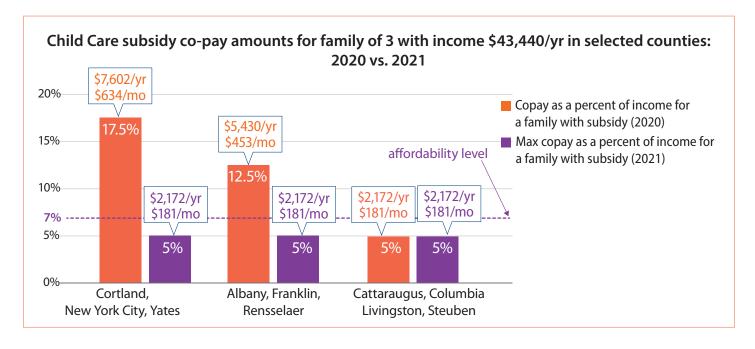


For the small percentage of families eligible for child care subsidies, many struggle to navigate the confusing, often dehumanizing maze of requirements to receive financial support.

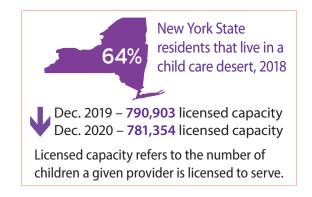
Early Childhood Care and Well Being

New York counties have long been forced to make inadequate child care funding stretch in a number of ways, including by exercising the option to deny subsidies to low-income parent(s) who are: engaged in a job search, pursuing a degree or job training; physically or mentally incapacitated; receiving domestic violence services; experiencing homelessness. While the 2021 NYS Budget directs counties to use excess stimulus funds to expand subsidy access to more of these eligible families, counties are not required to cover all. These exclusions underscore the urgent need for universal access to high-quality child care.

New York capped family co-pays for subsidized child care in April 2021 to no more than 10% of income in excess of the federal poverty level, eliminating significant variations in co-pays among counties, and making subsidized child care more affordable for NY families able to access a subsidy.



Even if a family can afford quality child care, it is difficult to find an opening in a licensed facility. Prior to the pandemic, 64% of New York families lived in communities with few, if any, child care providers; in 2020, statewide licensed child care capacity shrunk by 9,500 spots.



The child care sector—and all early childhood services—are on life-support after years of underinvestment, compounded by the added costs created by the COVID-19 pandemic. While historic levels of federal child care stimulus funds have prevented the collapse of child care, there is a growing consensus the only way to ensure equitable access to high quality early childhood care and education is to treat—and fund—these services not as a private privilege, but as a public good.

New York's early childhood educators, nearly all women, largely women of color, live in poverty at more than twice the rate of the New York workers in general (nearly 1 in 5 in 2019). Many educators must leave the field to earn a family-sustaining wage.



Federal American Rescue Plan Act Child Care Stabilization Funds (\$1.1B - Total)



Many child care providers
have credited the stabilization grants—
distributed in six monthly payments—with
enabling them to keep their doors open this
fall and winter. With monthly payments set to end
for most providers in early 2022, the need for a
new source of sustained funding to
meet the true costs of providing highquality child care is urgent.

\$901M
Total approved to
15,000 NY child care
providers

\$607M Paid out so far (Aug.–Dec.); remainder by early 2022

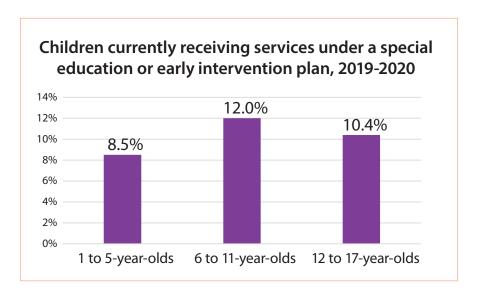
While New York continues to expand pre-K outside of New York City, the pace of expansion is slow.



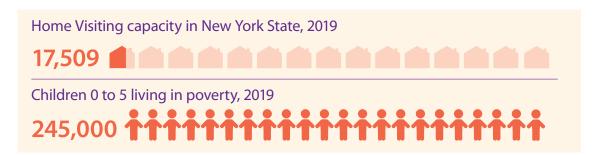
The total number of 4-year-old seats statewide increased from 94,600 in the 2018 school year to 102,360 in 2019. Yet, more than 75,000 4-year-olds outside of NYC, or 78%, were still denied the opportunity to attend full-day pre-K.

Early Childhood Care and Well Being

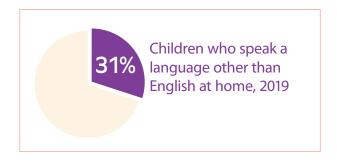
Because so many children were unable to receive help for much of the pandemic, programs that support children with learning delays and disabilities will need resources to accommodate additional children needing services.



New York is home to a variety of home visiting programs, but the vast majority of low-income New York families are not able to participate due to inadequate availability.



Thirty-one percent of New York children are dual language learners. Without quality early learning, they can fall behind.



Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy Team

Kate Breslin, President and CEO

Crystal Charles, Policy Analyst

Nicole Correia, Director of Communications

James Farrell, Administrative Coordinator

Dorothy (Dede) Hill, Director of Policy

Lara Kassel, Coordinator of Medicaid Matters

Alea Simons, Policy Analyst

Helen Smith, Director of Finance & Operations

Carole Tozzi, Administrative Associate

Bridget Walsh, Senior Policy Analyst

Sources can be found at: scaany.org/state-of-new-yorks-children-2022/

SCHUYLER CENTER FOR ANALYSIS AND ADVOCACY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Paul J. Kaye, M.D., *Chair* Ronald F. Uba, Vice Chair James Caron, Treasurer Louise Skolnik, DSW, Secretary Kalpana Bhandarkar Naomi T. Bloomfield, M.D. Frederic J. Buse Herbert Gordon, Esq. Cynthia B. Green, Ph.D. David Harris, M.D. **Robert Jones** Phyllis Lusskin Jane Lynch James W. Lytle, Esq. **Edward McCormick** Marjorie Momplaisir-Ellis Robert Plattner, Esq. Rahul Rekhi Sandra Roche Neil Rubin Reinhold Samson Laurie Shanks, Esq. Laura Jean Shipley, M.D. Olivia X. Wang, Ph.D.

Kate Breslin, President and CEO



540 Broadway
Albany, New York 12207
Tele. 518-463-1896 ◆ Fax 518-463-3364
www.scaany.org

