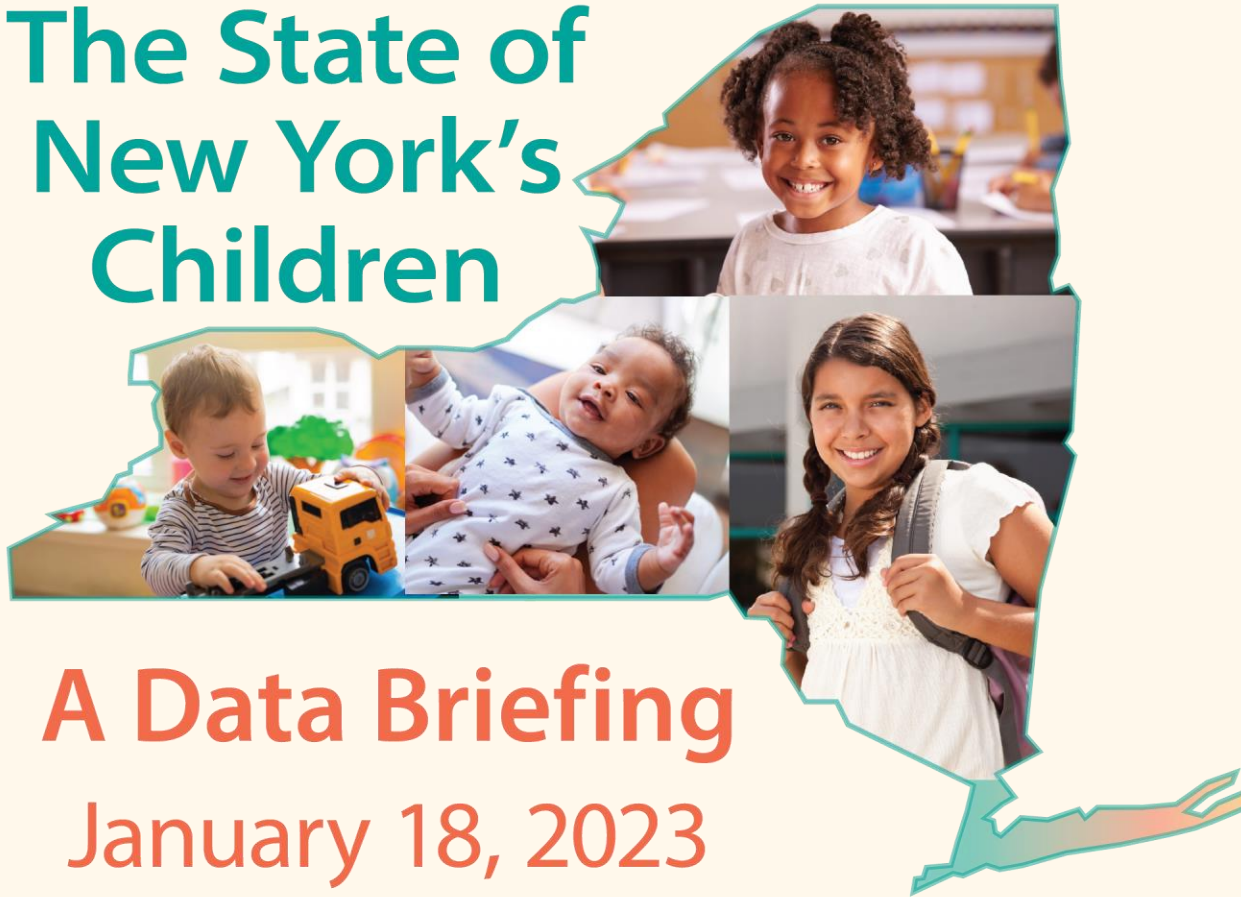


# The State of New York's Children



**A Data Briefing**  
January 18, 2023

 @SchuylerCenter

#StateofNYKids

[www.scaany.org](http://www.scaany.org)

Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy



**Allowing children to live in poverty is  
a policy decision.**

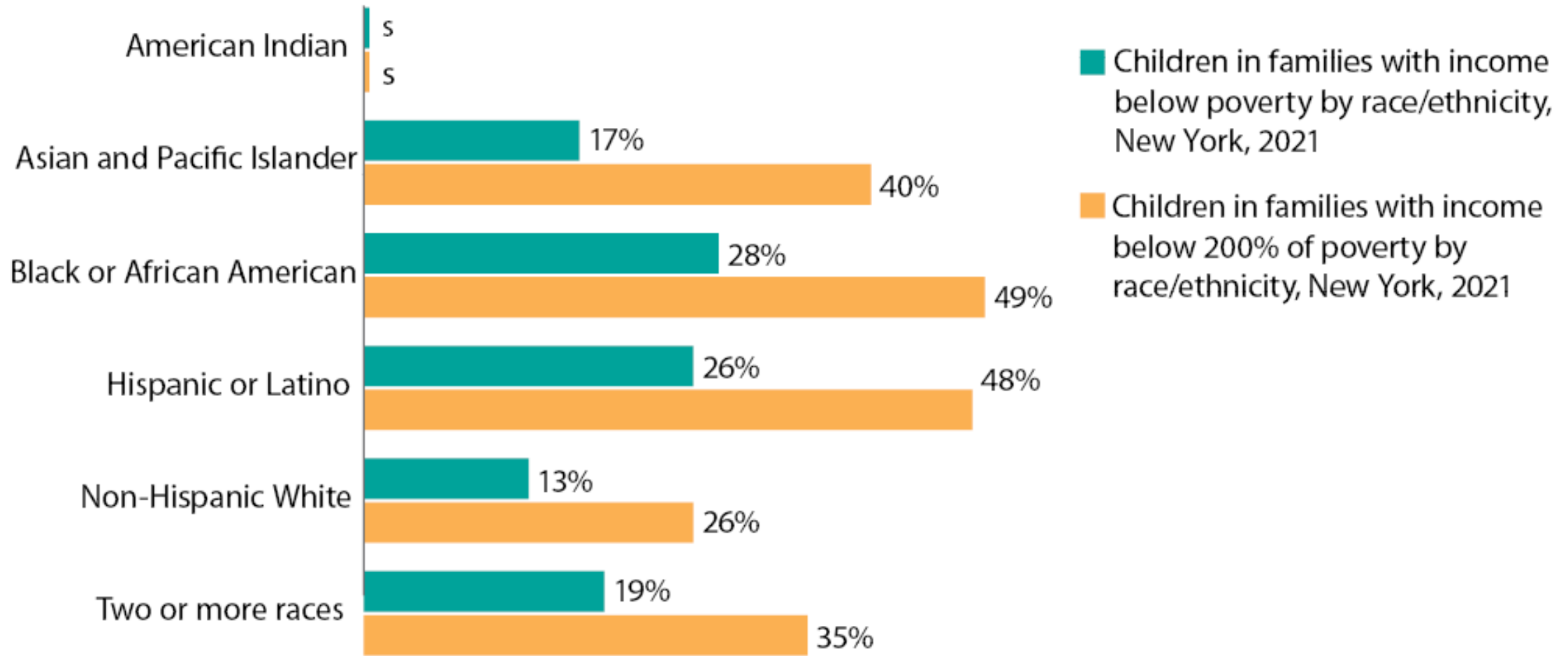


# Child poverty in New York exceeds national average & disproportionately impacts Black & brown children

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- Child poverty nationwide reached record lows in 2021 due to COVID-19 pandemic relief: food, housing, expanded child tax credits; since these programs have ended, child poverty has increased
- Black and brown children continue to experience poverty at higher rates
- Poverty negatively impacts children's well-being, increasing family stress, homelessness, food insecurity, adverse health effects, and child welfare involvement

## Children in Black, Hispanic/Latino, and multi-racial families experience poverty at much higher rates than non-Hispanic white children—results of longstanding racial inequities



*Children under 18 in families experiencing poverty and below 200% of poverty (FPL), by race/ethnicity, NYS 2021*



- The temporary expanded federal child tax credit, by itself, cut child poverty nationally by 43%
- National Academy of Sciences report overwhelmingly concludes it is possible to cut child poverty and identifies evidence-based solutions
- New York's Child Poverty Reduction Act commits the State to cutting child poverty in half in the next decade





# Robust, refundable tax credits are one proven strategy for reducing child poverty

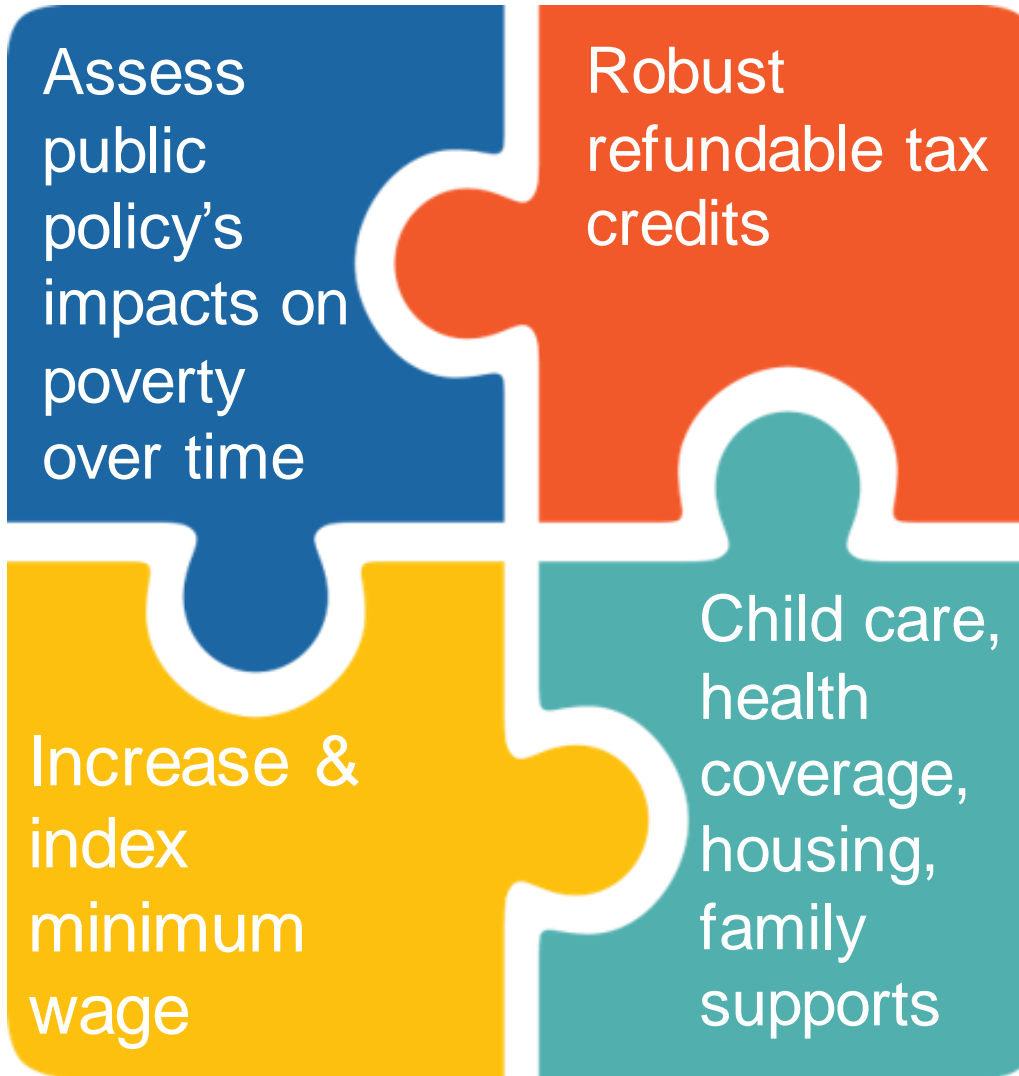
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- A child tax credit targeted to the lowest income, youngest children yields the greatest bang for the buck, but NYS's child tax credit is flawed, leaving out 40% of the highest need children who would benefit the most
- To most effectively cut child poverty, child tax credit should
  - Include children of all ages; some make credits for young children larger
  - Provide a meaningful, impactful credit amount
  - Direct the maximum credit to the lowest income tax-filers
  - Be available to immigrant families & families in deep poverty
  - Be paid out monthly/quarterly to smooth income, help cover monthly expenses



# Policy decisions matter for children experiencing poverty

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True child welfare is achieved when New York's children and families can easily access resources and supports of their choosing, provided by and for their community.





# Child Welfare

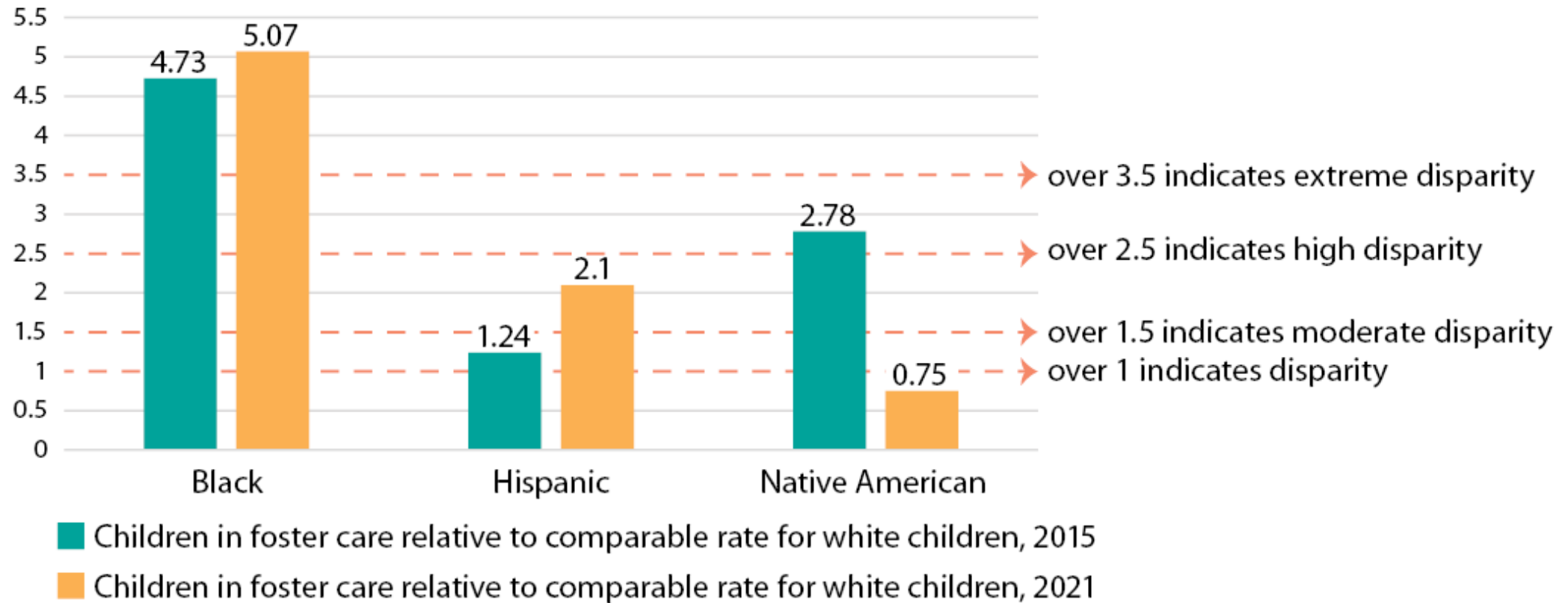
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In 2021, New York's child welfare system:

- Received **145,684** reports
- Provided **75,088** children and **37,516** families with preventive services
- Had **14,358** children in foster care

At each step of the child welfare process, disparities exist.

## Black children in NYS are over five times more likely to be in child welfare placement as white children; Hispanic children are twice as likely



*New York Disparity Index: Rate of Black, Hispanic, Native American children in child welfare placement relative to comparable rate for white children, 2015, 2021*



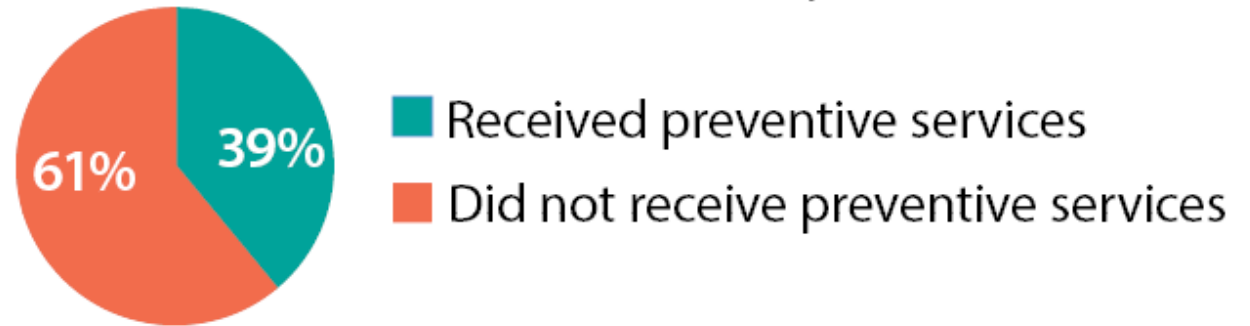
# Implementing Family First: Focus on family and community

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In 2021, New York began implementing Family First, a federal law.

**Most children who are separated from their families and placed in the child welfare system are removed from their homes without receiving preventive services.**

Preventive services status of children at time of admission to foster care, 2021



Too often child welfare “Prevention Services” are provided too late or not at all.



# Transform Child Welfare in New York

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High-quality, culturally-responsive, child care, pre-K, and afterschool strengthen families and communities.







# Broad access to high-quality early childhood and afterschool programs matters

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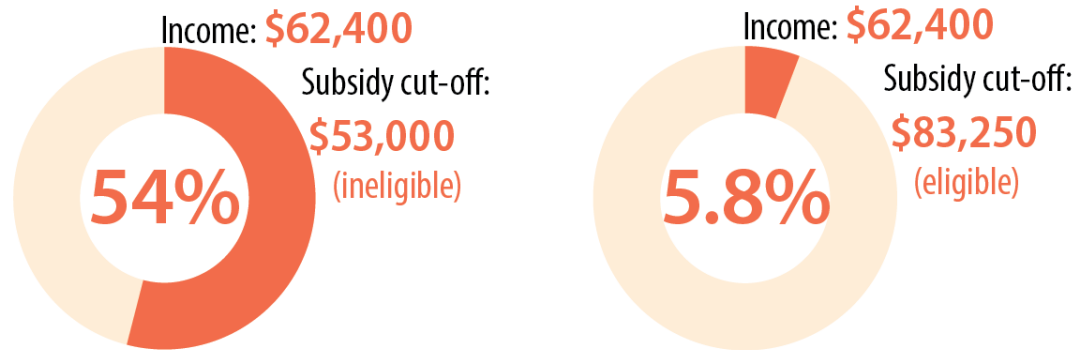
- Reduces economic and environmental stressors that can lead to child welfare involvement
- Cuts child poverty
- Boosts parents' workforce participation, particularly women's
- Improves academic achievement, health, social-emotional skills, future workforce engagement
- Improves business productivity



# Cost of child care and afterschool are too high for most families to cover without assistance

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New York's recent increase in income eligibility for child care assistance stands to sharply reduce child care costs for tens of thousands of newly eligible families



Monthly child care expenses: \$2,829  
July 2022

Monthly child care expenses: \$299  
January 2023

*New York family with one infant and a 4-year-old in center (price \$33,945) – family of 4, two adults earning \$15/hr: child care expenses before August 2022 and after*

New York expanded access to child care assistance in 2022, making **more than 265,000** children newly eligible

7%  
\$

**FEDERAL CHILD CARE AFFORDABILITY STANDARD: NO MORE THAN 7% OF INCOME**



# Another hurdle: inadequate child care capacity

Licensed Child Care Capacity in New York State by Modality: 2019 and 2021				
	2019	2021	Change in capacity (number)	Change in capacity (percentage)
Center-Based Child Care	313,951	314,327	+ 376	+ 0.1%
Family Child Care (include school age)	26,340	22,081	- 4,259	- 16.2%
Group Family Child Care (include school age)	123,034	114,323	- 8,711	- 7.1%
Center-Based School-Age Child Care	327,578	325,290	- 2,288	- 0.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>790,903</b>	<b>776,021</b>	<b>-14,881</b>	<b>- 1.9%</b>



# Key to access and quality: a well-compensated, well-supported child care workforce

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In New York State, the number of jobs in child-care services are still lower than pre-pandemic numbers, **down by 5,400** in October 2022 compared to October 2019, an **8% decline** from pre-pandemic levels. Nationally, in the same month, child-care services industry was **down 64,800** workers, a **6% decline** from pre-pandemic levels.



# While NY is making improvements, families still face barriers to accessing child care assistance

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- Long processing times
- Waitlists
- Frequent recertifications
- Assistance limited to exact hours of work
- County variations in programmatic eligibility
  - During unemployment (duration)
  - Parents with disabilities
  - Foster families; families experiencing homelessness (State of State proposes to require counties to prioritize statewide.)





# Universal child care, afterschool and pre-K

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**Health: Complete state of physical, mental, and social-emotional well-being. Not just the absence of disease or infirmity.**





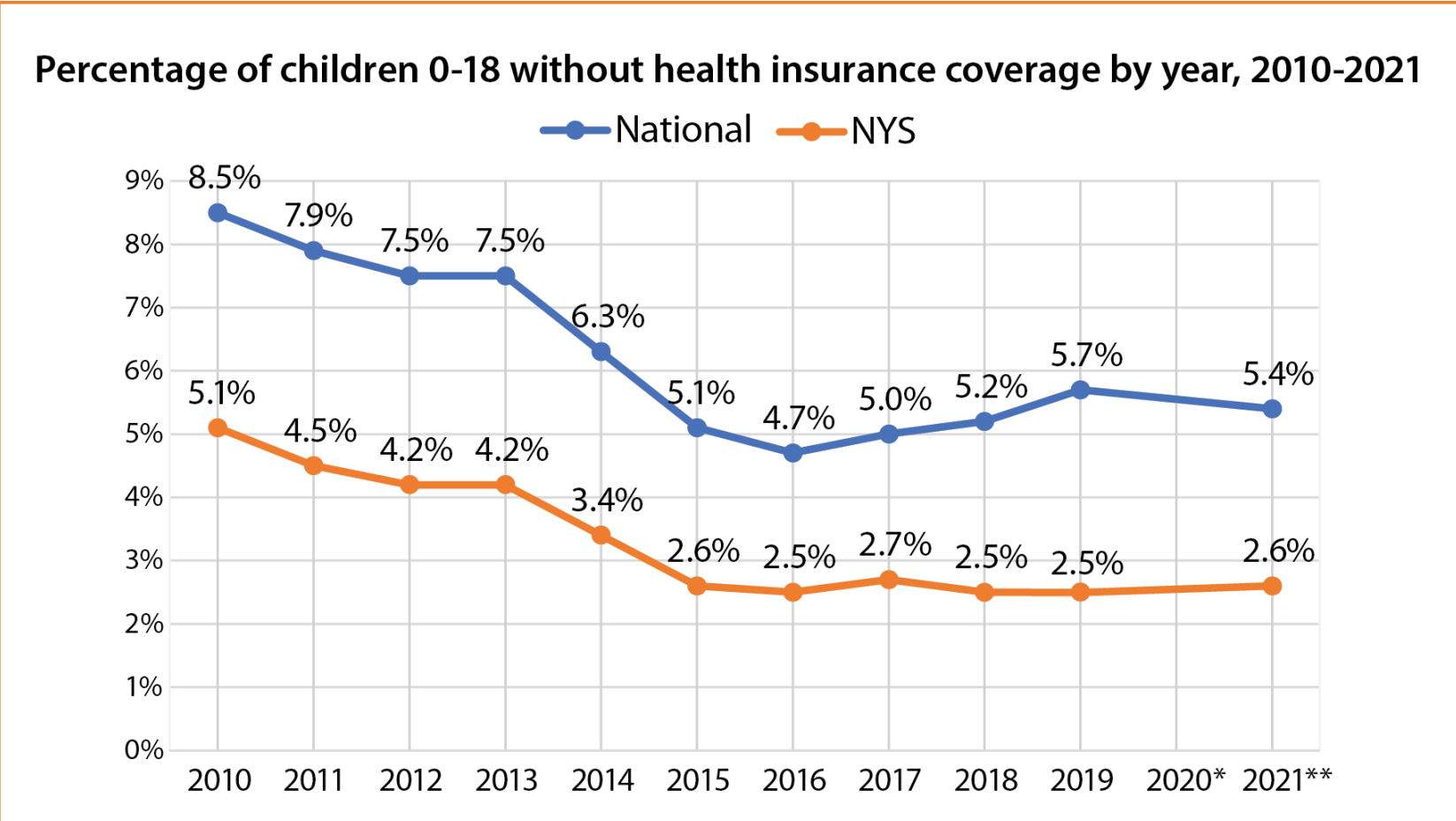
# Social determinants and pandemic recovery

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- Children who experience poverty are at higher risk for adverse health and developmental outcomes through their life
- The pandemic brought additional adverse health and social determinants for children, with short-term and long-term implications



# NYS child insurance rate better than US average



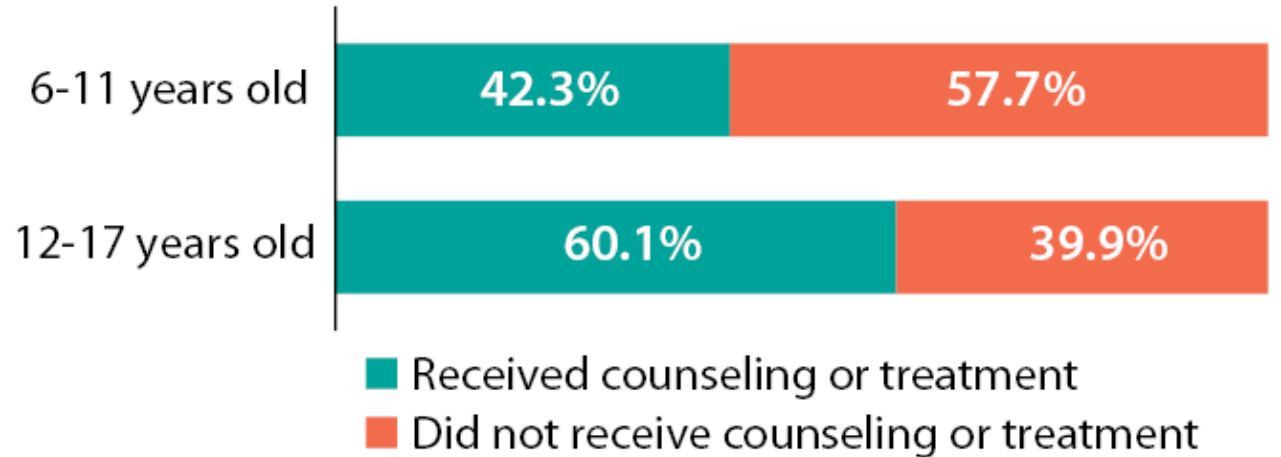


# Difficulties obtaining mental health care

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- Mental health critical to overall health
- Many children unable to access services
- Parents, especially mothers, not receiving diagnosis or services

Many New York children who have a mental/behavioral health condition do not receive treatment or counseling (2020)







# Investment in child health lasts a lifetime





# Medicaid Matters

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There are now over 7.7 million people enrolled in Medicaid in New York

Medicaid and Child Health Plus cover 43% of all kids and 78% of children whose families have low income



# Kids should have continuous coverage, starting with children birth to age 6

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- State enrollment systems would mark a child as enrolled until age six
- The burden of reenrolling a child in those early years would be lifted from parents
- Families could focus on keeping their children up to date on preventive services and care during critical years of growth and development
- Continuous enrollment throughout the federal public health emergency proves this can be done



# Let's make New York next!

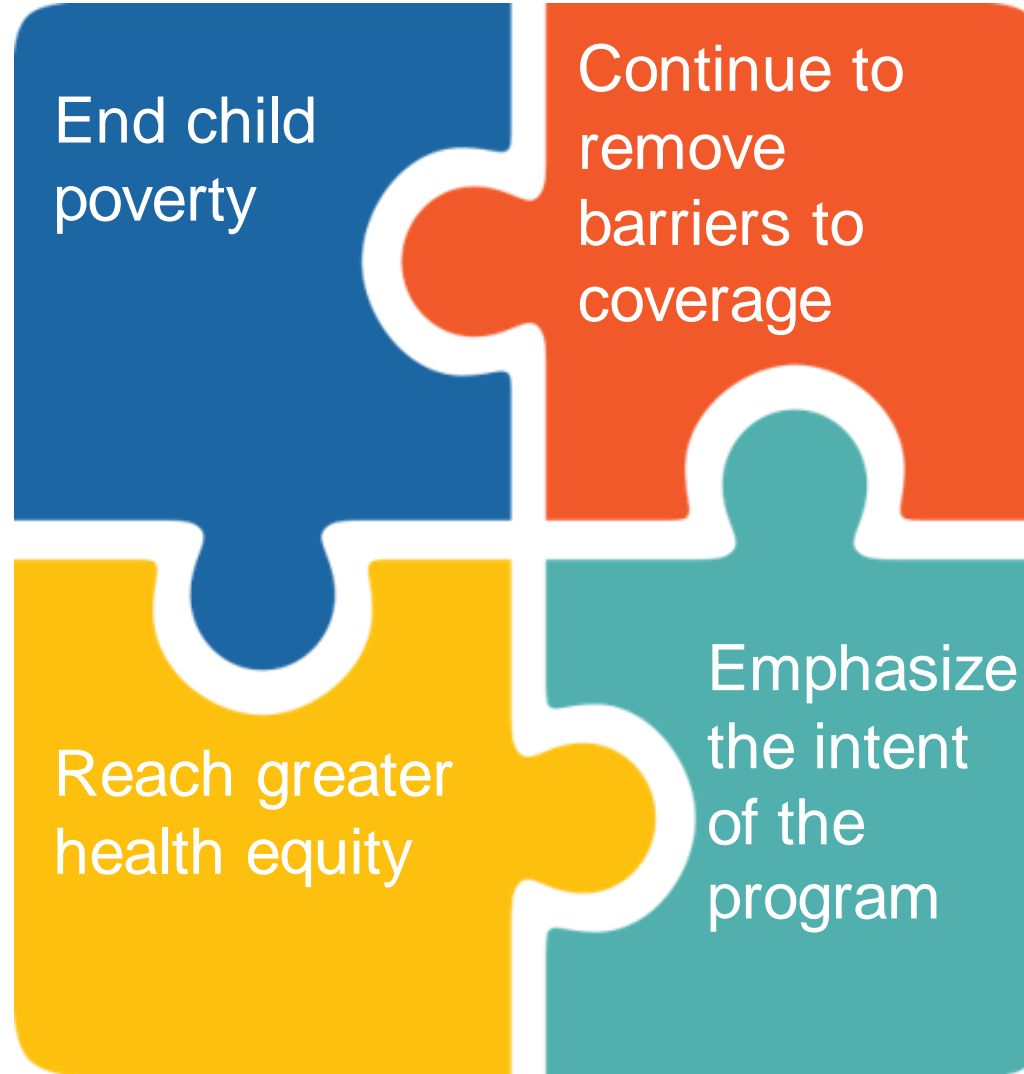
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- Several states have received federal approval or have submitted applications for approval for continuous coverage for children.
- Oregon received approval in September 2022
  - According to the Oregon Health Authority, in 2019, the monthly average percentage of children ages 1-18 enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP who were disenrolled because they were over income is less than one percent.



# Strong Medicaid policy is part of the solution

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The policy and budget choices we make in 2023 will impact our children for a lifetime.

