

**December 21, 2023**

## **Schuyler Center Releases 2024 *State of New York's Children Data Book***

*The 2024 report highlights policies needed to make New York work for families*

[Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy](#) has released the [2024 State of New York's Children Data Book](#). The release of the annual data book highlights the challenges and opportunities facing New York's children and families as the 2024 State Legislative Session begins.

[A data briefing will be held in Albany on January 17](#) (registration required).

New York State must be affordable for everyone; implementing evidence-based policy solutions can transform lives, increase opportunities, and eliminate barriers to well-being. At a time when [families are leaving New York](#), the right investments can keep families here: learning, growing, playing, working, and contributing to the future of our state.

The data and analysis in [The State of New York's Children report](#) seeks to answer several questions: Who is being left behind? Where are the opportunities to support families? What are the most important issues impacting parents and children? How can we meet today's challenges and create a New York State in which every child has the opportunity to thrive?

From [poverty reduction](#) to [child health](#), from [child care](#) to [child welfare](#), several themes emerged from the data across issues: barriers to accessing support, benefit cliffs that keep people from gaining ground, and workforce shortages that impact everyone. These are all systemic problems that require systemic solutions to support strong families, thriving children, and vibrant communities throughout New York State.

"Hundreds of thousands of New York children are experiencing racial disparities, poverty, unstable housing, and hunger," said **Kate Breslin, Schuyler Center President and CEO**. "There are more than four million children living, learning, and playing in New York State and the public policy choices our leaders make in the coming months will affect them for a lifetime. Schuyler Center compiles this data book to provide background and context about policy decisions our leaders can and should make for a more resilient New York."

***The 2024 Data Book includes data and policy recommendations on the following:***

- [A State Commitment to Reducing Child Poverty](#) - Far too many children (nearly 20%), in all corners of NYS, live in poverty, which can have long-reaching impacts on children's lives. There are steps the State can – and should – take now to reduce poverty and alleviate its impacts on NY children.
- [Tax Credits to Help Families Make Ends Meet](#) - Refundable tax credits are among the most effective ways to reduce poverty and alleviate tax burdens for NY families. As families across the state struggle to make ends meet, NY should work to strengthen its

family tax credits this year to make NY more affordable for all families.

- [Keeping the Youngest New Yorkers Insured](#) - 45% of New York children are covered by Medicaid and Child Health Plus. Eliminating the requirement for the youngest New Yorkers to be re-enrolled every year would ensure that children have continuous access to health services in the most critical years of their development. Several other states are providing continuous enrollment for the youngest children. New York should be next.
- [Fostering Transparency and Accountability in New York's Child Welfare System](#) - Transparency and accountability are needed in New York's child welfare system. Over 76% of reports to Child Protective Services are unfounded, a determination made only after the family has undergone an invasive, stressful, often traumatic investigation. When families have easy access to economic supports and trusted resources in their community, children thrive – even when their parents earn low incomes.
- [Bolstering the Child Care System with a Well-Compensated Workforce](#) - Well-compensated, well-supported educators perform the essential work of making high-quality universal child care a reality for New York's children and families. Currently, child care educators earn less than 96% of occupations in New York State.

**Additional sections coming soon:**

- **Investing in Oral Health Equity** – *Tooth decay is largely preventable, yet dental caries remain the most common chronic disease of childhood, especially for children experiencing poverty. All children deserve to be free from the pain and lasting impacts of dental disease. Families should have easy and affordable access to preventive and treatment services to maintain good childhood oral health.*
- **Lowering Barriers to Assistance for a More Equitable Child Care System** – *New York has made important strides in expanding access to child care, however significant barriers remain in the way of accessing child care and early education that works for families and meets the developmental needs of children. Without assistance, the cost of child care is out of reach for nearly all New York families.*
- **Supporting Maternal and Child Mental Health** - *A growing number and percentage of children, youth, and families are experiencing serious mental health conditions and challenges obtaining services. Improving access to services will require overcoming the fiscal and regulatory barriers to train more providers, develop additional types of providers, and allow existing providers to work at the top of their license.*

