

THE STATE OF NEW YORK'S CHILDREN



2026 Data Briefing



New York State's Children

Our children make up a fifth of New York's diverse populations, possessing richly varied perspectives, and unlimited potential

4,109,277

children under age 18, 2023

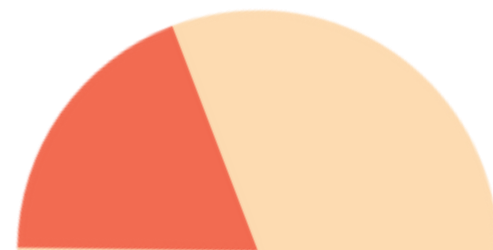
1,102,961

children under age 5, 2023



37.5%

[1,406,000]



CHILDREN IN IMMIGRANT FAMILIES, 2023



42.3%

CHILDREN RESIDING IN NEW YORK CITY AS A PERCENTAGE OF ALL NEW YORK STATE CHILDREN, 2023

Due to delays in the release of census data, this book relies on 2023 census data, the most recent available at the time of publication.



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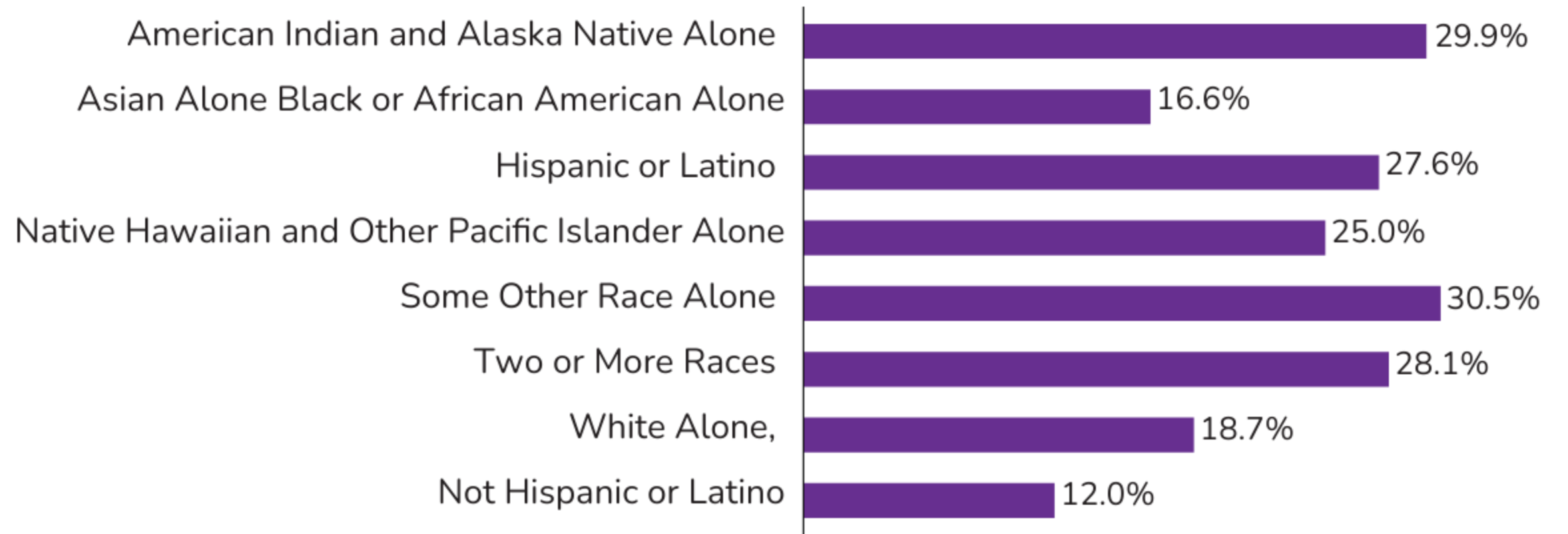




New York State's Children

In 2023, approximately 731,672 New York children, over 18%, experienced poverty

New York Children in Native, Black, Hispanic/Latino, and Multi-Racial Families Experience Poverty at Much Higher Rates Than Non-Hispanic White Children, 2023



Due to delays in the release of census data, this book relies on 2023 census data, the most recent available at the time of publication.



2025 Win – Child Tax Credit Expansion

Children under age four now qualify for a maximum credit of \$1,000 (previously \$330);

Children in immigrant families filing with an individual tax identification number, rather than a social security number, remain eligible for the credit.

Next year, children 4-16 will qualify for up to \$500 (previously \$330);

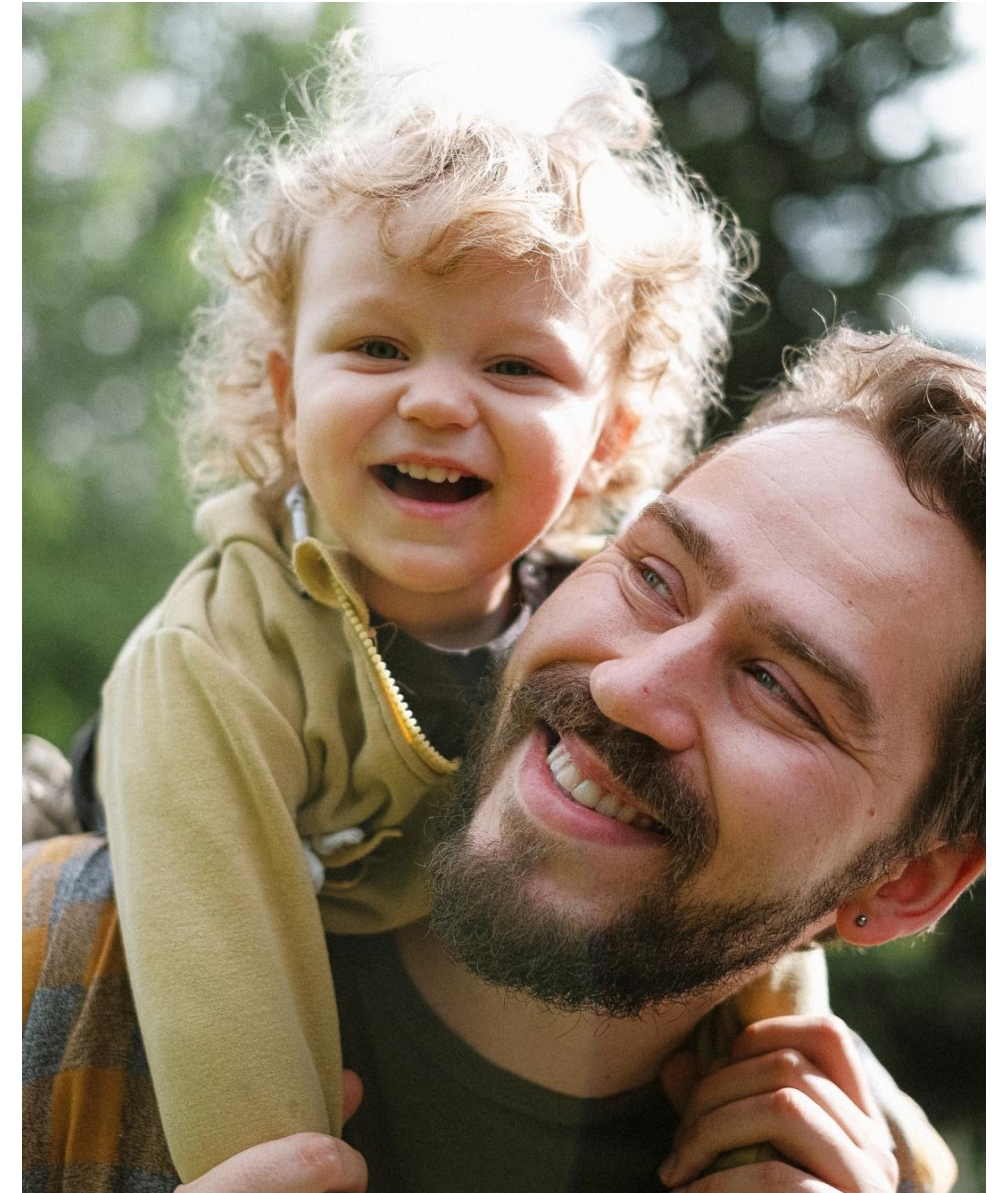
Children in the lowest income families qualify for the full credit (previously subject to a phase-in), and





Agenda

- **Wins for New York's Children**
- **Federal Impacts on New York**
- **How are New York's Children Faring?**
 - **Child Care**
 - **Oral Health Care Access**
 - **Child Welfare**
 - **Child Health Coverage**
 - **Food Security**
- **Q&A**





Meet the Schuyler Center Policy Team



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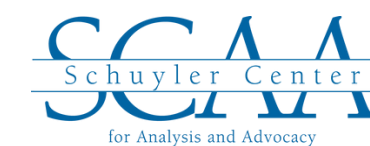
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Good News: Expansion to CCAP

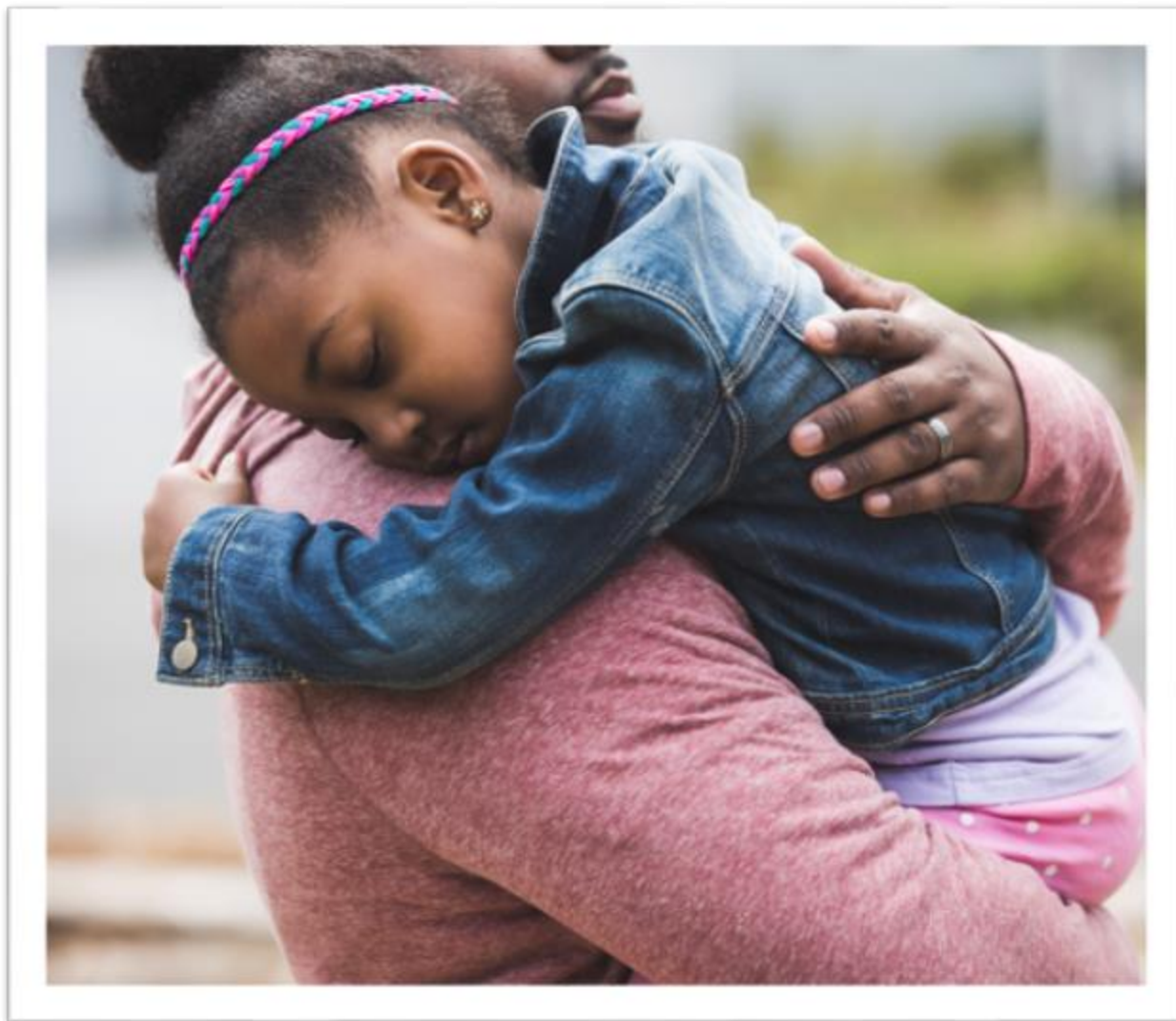
Gaining access to child care assistance can be life-changing for a family

Household size/annual income/ number of children in care	Average annual cost to family (eligible, but unable to access CCAP)	Average annual cost to family (eligible and able to access CCAP)	Annual savings for families awarded CCAP
Family of 3—\$62,400 (two parents, full-time, \$15/hr 230% FPL)—one infant in family child care	\$16,415 26% of family income	\$358 0.6% of family income	\$16,057
Family of 3—\$84,578 (NYS median household income)—two school-aged children in family-child care	\$26,598 31.4% of family income	\$579 <1% of family income	\$26,019

Source: SCAA Analysis



Federal Headwinds for Families



Federal funding cuts and other actions single out low-income and immigrant families for some of the harshest treatment

- **1.7 million New York families are expected to lose some or all of their SNAP benefits**
- **An estimated 226,000 U.S. citizen and legal permanent resident NY children to lose their federal child tax credit - a loss of up to \$2,200 per child**
- **Countless NY families, fearful of aggressive, sweeping immigration enforcement, have withdrawn from benefits to which they are entitled, and many daily activities, like school and work**
- **As of January 6, more than \$4 billion in federal funds for NY child care, cash assistance, and other supports for low-income families was frozen.**





The Child Care Workforce- The Underpaid Backbone of New York's Human Infrastructure

Annual Median Child Care Workers Wages Are Inadequate in 2025



Child care workforce is comprised of 94% women, most of them being women of color

Source: New York State Department of Labor. (2025). Occupational Wages for New York State. U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration.

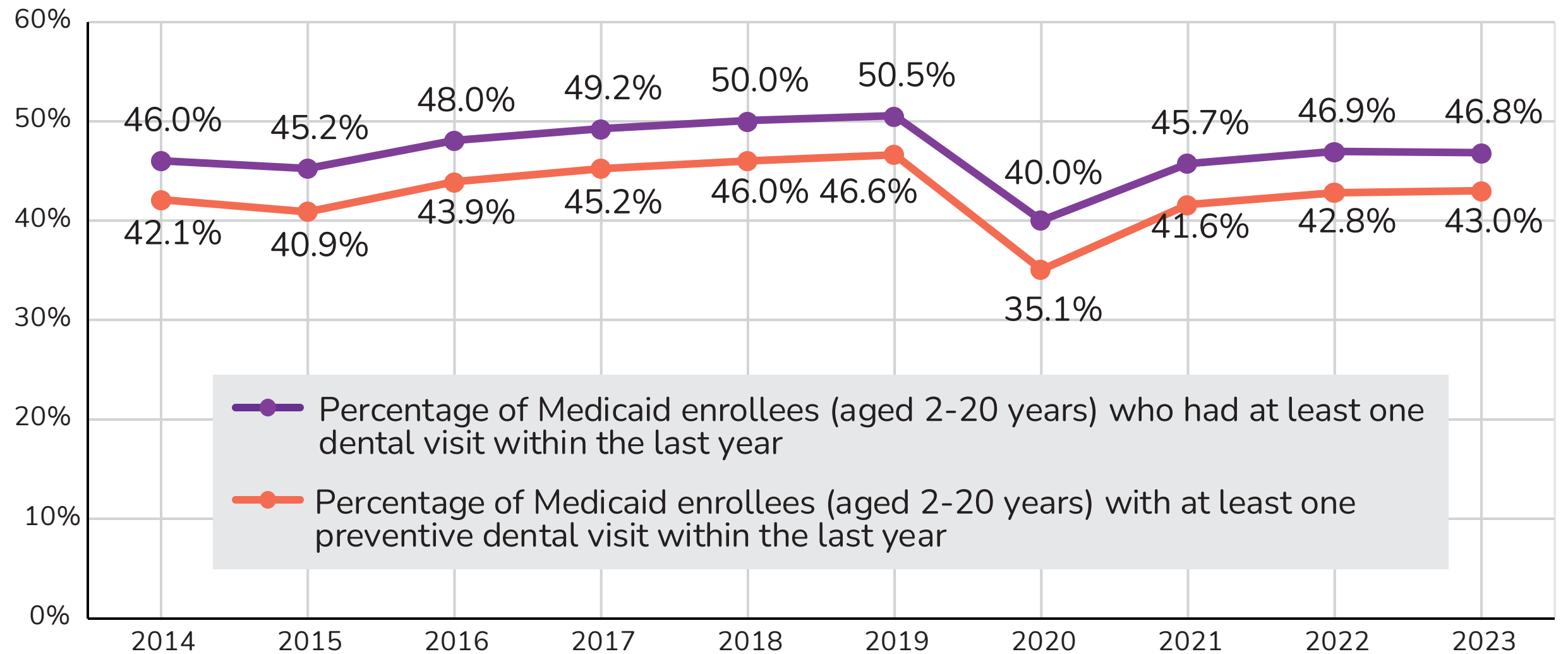
Child Care workers are amongst the lowest paid workers, earning less than 96% of occupations in NYS. This has resulted in a struggle to recruit and retain staff, contributing to the child care deserts across the majority of the state. New York State cannot achieve universal child care without investing in the child care workforce. Ongoing, publicly funded compensation supplements are the only way to raise compensation without increasing tuition, which is already too high for most families to afford.



Dental Coverage Doesn't Equal Access

Insurance coverage alone doesn't ensure access. Provider shortage is a major barrier to care.

The Percentage of Medicaid-Enrolled New York Children Who Had at Least One Dental Visit Within the Last Year Exceeded 50% Just Once in the Last Decade



Source: NYS Department of Health. New York State Community Health Indicator Reports (CHIRS) Dashboard



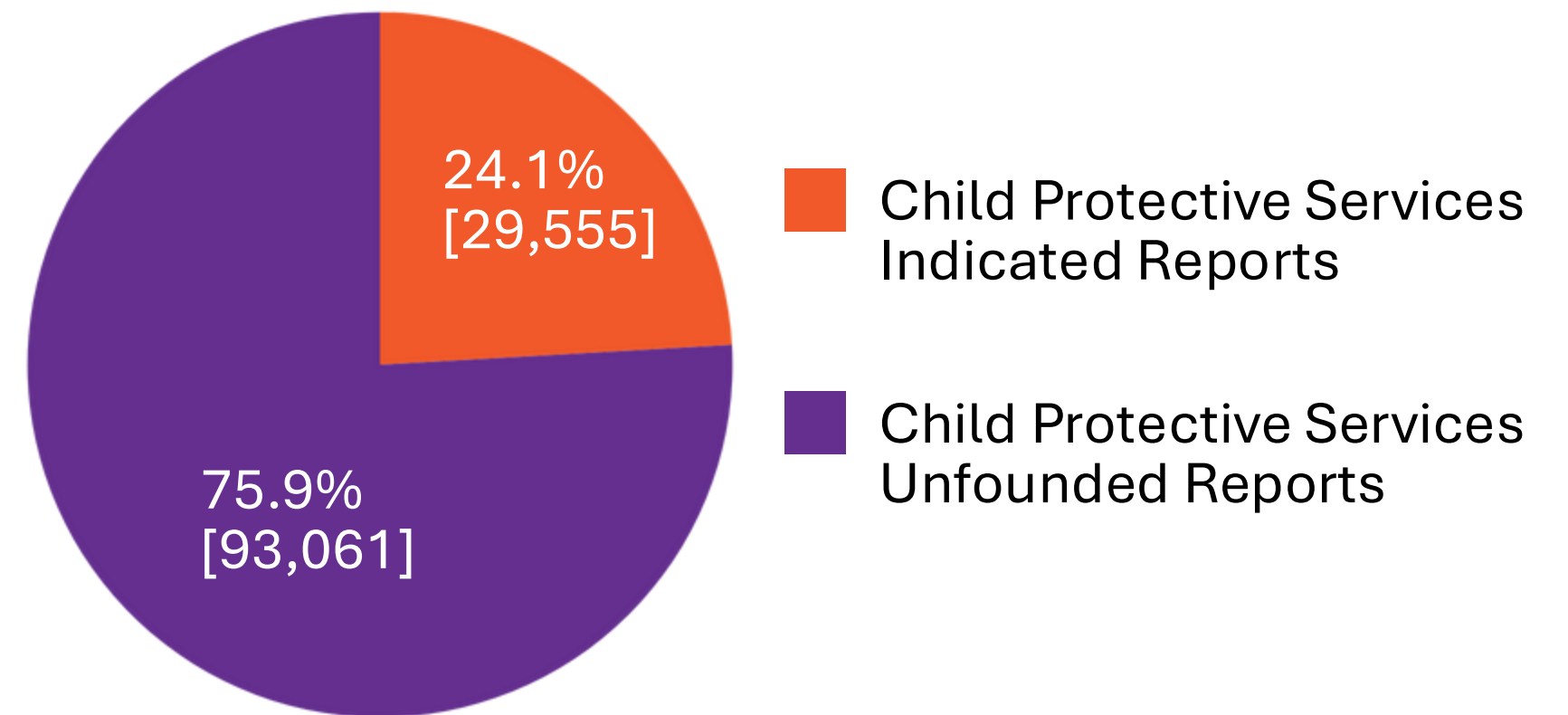
Too many families are investigated based on unfounded reports to the State Central Register

Over 143,000 New York families were subject to CPS investigations in 2024.

Location	2024 - Investigations per 1000
USA	41.7
New York State	30.4
New York City	22.7
Chemung	84.0
Clinton	82.6
Chautauqua	81.2
Greene	74.6
Warren	74.5
Seneca	73.6
Cortland	70.2
Madison	67.7
Essex	67.6
Cattaraugus	67.3
Bronx	41.3

Source: Schuyler Center calculations based on NYS OCFS. (2025); U.S. Census 5-Year ACS. (2024); New York City Administration for Children's Services. (n.d); and Child Trends. (2025).

The Majority of Reports to the State Central Register Are Unfounded (2024)



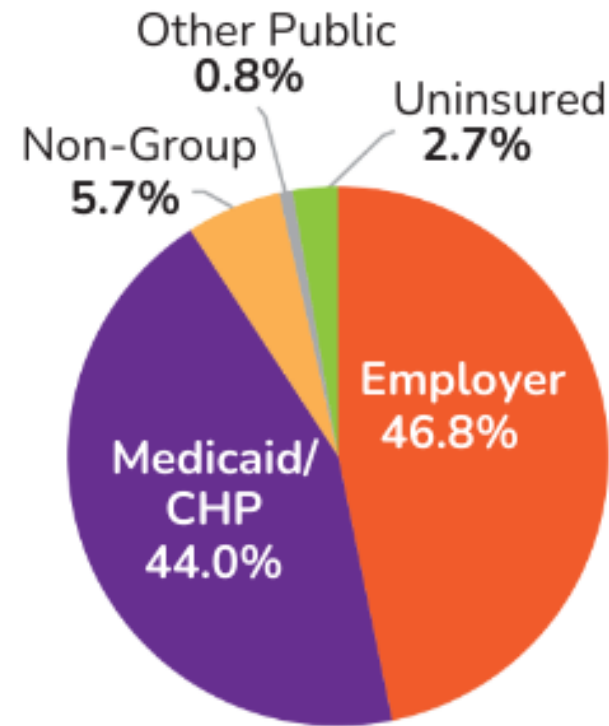
Source: Office of Research, Evaluation and Performance Analytics. (2025). 2024 Monitoring and Analysis Profiles With Selected Trend Data: 2020-2024. New York State Office of Children and Family Services.



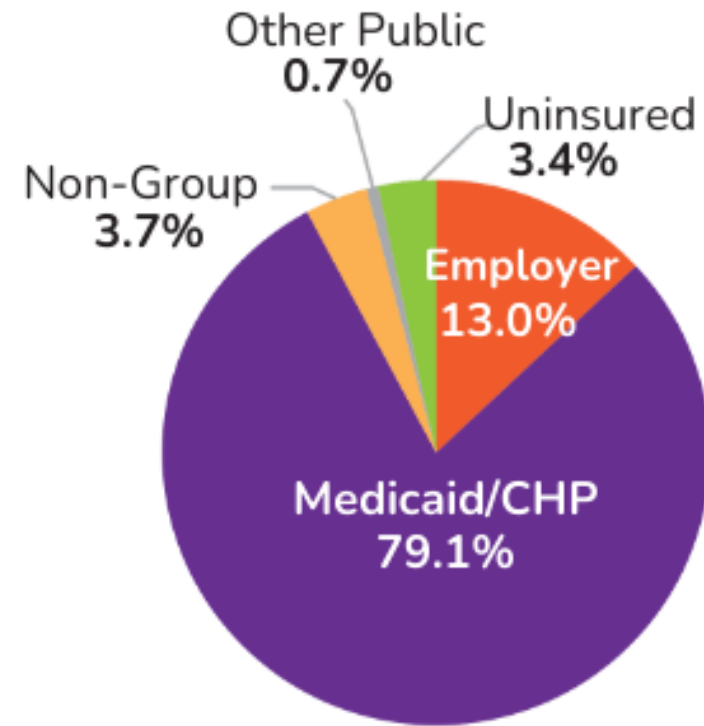
Keeping New York's Children Covered

Medicaid and Child Health Plus cover 44% of all NYS children and nearly 80% of children in poverty

Health insurance coverage of all NYS children 0-18, 2023



Health insurance coverage of NYS children 0-18 living under 200% federal poverty level, 2023



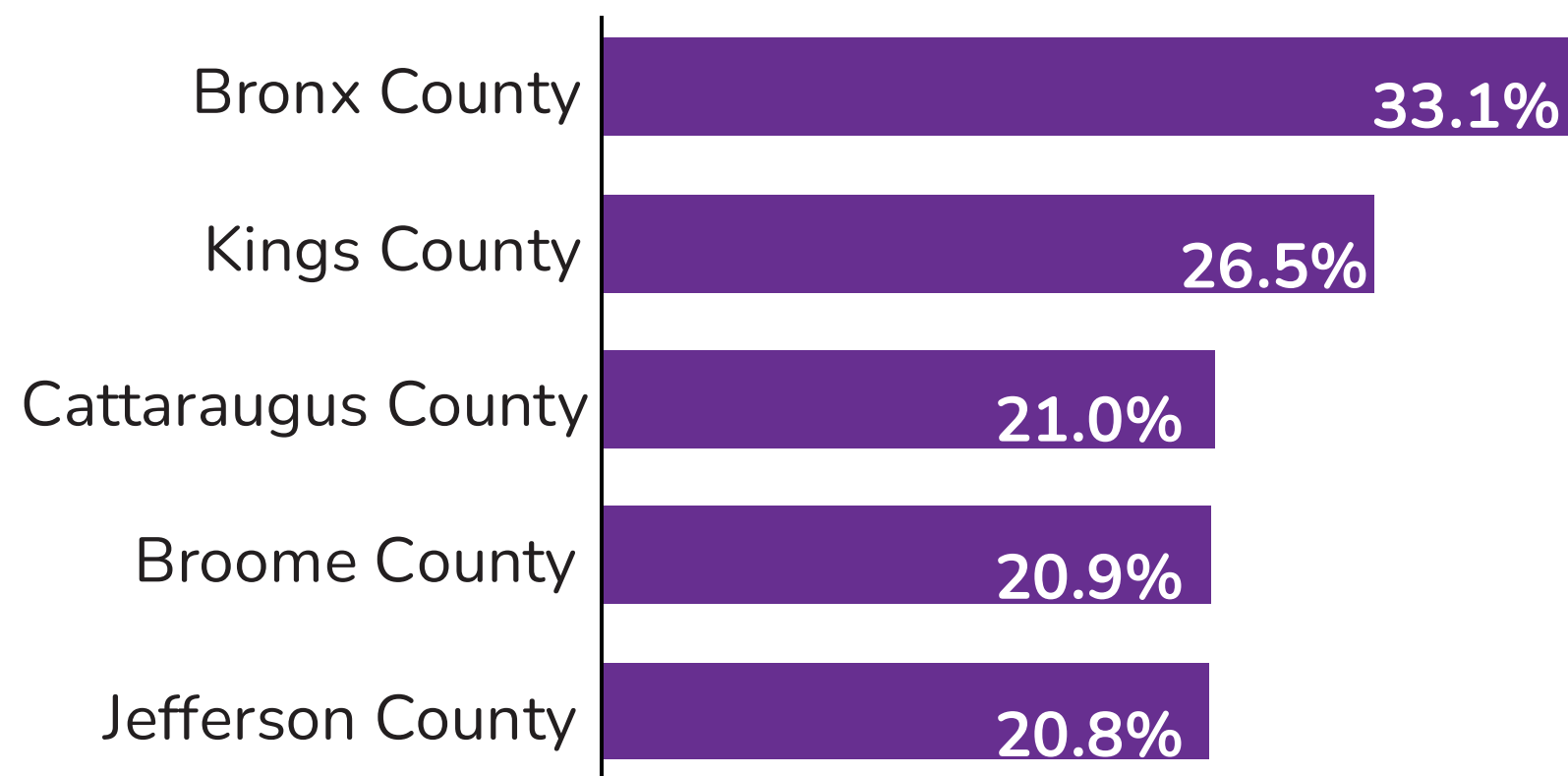
Sources: KFF. (2024). Health Insurance Coverage of Children 0-18.
KFF. (2024). Health Insurance Coverage of Low Income Children 0-18 (under 200% FPL).

- New York State has a rich history in staying committed to keeping children covered.
- Recent federal Medicaid cuts and policy changes will threaten coverage, requiring some New Yorkers to face paperwork barriers to stay covered.
- There are ways New York can maintain its commitment to keeping children and families covered.



Food Insecurity Continues to Rise

Five Counties with Children Facing the Highest Food Insecurity Rates (2023)



New York State's rate for children facing food insecurity was 19.0%

Source: Feeding America. (2025). 2023 Food Insecurity in New York.

- In 2023, roughly 1 in 5 New York children (19%) experienced food insecurity
- Food insecurity occurs disproportionately along racial lines: 26% of Hispanic New Yorkers, 25% of Black New Yorkers, and 9% of white New Yorkers
- Note: 2024 data released on December 30, 2025, shows a statistically significant increase in food insecurity statewide





Q & A

SCAA
Schuyler Center
SCAA
for Analysis and Advocacy

**The State of
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Children**



Let's fight for New York's kids – together!



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