



# Children in the States

## NEW YORK

September 2015

### Child Population

**4,228,906 children lived in New York in 2014; 51 percent were children of color.**

- 49 percent were White
- 24 percent were Hispanic
- 16 percent were Black
- 8 percent were Asian
- 3 percent were two or more races
- <1 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native
- <1 percent were Pacific Islander

### Child Poverty

**Nearly 1 in 4 (22.6 percent) of New York's children were poor in 2014, a total of 936,938 children.<sup>1</sup>**

- New York ranked 33<sup>rd</sup> in child poverty among states.<sup>2</sup>
- More than 1 in 10 children lived in extreme poverty at less than half the poverty level.
- The youngest children were the poorest age group. Nearly 1 in 4 children under age 6 were poor; nearly half of the poor children were extremely poor.

**Children of color in New York are disproportionately poor.**

- Nearly 1 in 3 Black children, more than 1 in 3 Hispanic children, and nearly 1 in 4 American Indian/Alaska Native children were poor in 2014, compared to more than 1 in 7 White children.

### Child Hunger and Homelessness

**Child poverty in New York leads to unacceptable child homelessness and hunger.**

- Nearly 132,000 New York public school students were homeless in the 2012-2013 school year.
- In 2014, more than 3 full-time minimum-wage jobs were necessary to be able to afford a fair market rent two-bedroom apartment in New York and still have enough left over for food, utilities and other necessities.
- Nearly 22 percent of children lived in households that lacked access to adequate food in 2013. More than 32 percent of children ages 10-17 were overweight or obese in 2011-2012. New York ranked 27<sup>th</sup> of states in child food security and 33<sup>rd</sup> in percent of children overweight and obese.
- Nearly 29 percent of New York children relied on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to meet their nutritional needs on an average month in FY2013.
- Nearly 69 percent of New York children receiving a free and reduced-price lunch during the school year did not participate in Summer Nutrition Programs in 2014 – ranking New York 2<sup>nd</sup> of 50 states in ensuring that children have adequate summer nutrition.

### Child Health

**Although the majority of New York's children have access to health coverage, that does not guarantee enrollment in coverage and access to care, which can jeopardize their education and their future.**

- In 2013, 92.6 percent of eligible children participated in Medicaid or Child Health Plus, New York's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In FY2013, a total of 2,309,571 New York children ages 0-18 were enrolled in Medicaid, and 490,114 in Child Health Plus.

<sup>1</sup> A family of four was poor if it was living on less than \$23,834 a year, \$1,986 a month, \$458 a week and \$65 a day, and extremely poor if living on less than \$11,917 a year, \$993 a month, \$229 a week and \$33 a day.

<sup>2</sup> The state ranked 1<sup>st</sup> is the best for children for that outcome and the state ranked 50<sup>th</sup> is the worst for children.

- Nearly 171,000 New York children ages 0-17 (4 percent) were uninsured in 2013. The state had the 5<sup>th</sup> lowest rate of uninsured children among states.
- In 2012, 147,000 uninsured children ages 0-18 were eligible for Medicaid or Child Health Plus but not enrolled.

## **Early Childhood and Education**

### **Lack of early childhood investments deprives children of critical supports in the early years and reduces school readiness.**

- In 2013, the average annual cost of center-based child care for an infant was \$14,508 – 109.7 percent more than the average annual in-state tuition and fees at a public four-year college in New York.
- New York had local waiting lists for child care assistance in early 2014.
- On average, 55 percent of New York's 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in public or private preschool from 2011-2013. Only 46 percent of children from families with incomes under 200 percent of poverty were enrolled.
- New York's state-funded preschool program met 7 of the 10 quality benchmarks set by the National Institute for Early Education Research in 2013-2014.

### **New York's schools fail to educate all children, closing off a crucial pathway out of poverty.**

- In 2013, 63 percent of New York's fourth grade public school students were unable to read at grade level and 60 percent were unable to compute at grade level.
  - 79 percent of Black fourth graders could not read at grade level and 83 percent could not compute.
  - 79 percent of Hispanic fourth graders could not read at grade level and 76 percent could not compute.
- 78 percent of New York public high school students graduated on time in 2012, placing New York 34<sup>th</sup> among states. 65 percent of Black students and 65 percent of Hispanic students graduated on time compared to 85 percent of White students.

## **Children Facing Special Risks**

### **Many vulnerable children need treatment, services and permanent families.**

- In New York, 64,578 children were abused or neglected in 2013 – 15.2 out of 1,000 children.
- On the last day of FY2013, there were 23,031 New York children in foster care.

### **Too many New York children are involved in the juvenile justice system.**

- 108,214 children were arrested in New York in 2012 – a rate of 5,579 out of 100,000 children ages 10-17.
- 2,139 children and youth were in residential placement in 2011. 53 percent of the children in residential placement were Black, 19 percent were Hispanic, and 22 percent were White.
- 131 New York children were in adult jails in 2013.
- New York spent 2.2 times as much per prisoner as per public school student in FY2012.

### **New York ranked 1<sup>st</sup> out of 41 ranked states in preventing child and teen gun deaths.**

- A total of 53 children and teens were killed by guns in New York in 2013 – a rate of 1.1 out of 100,000 children and teens.

For sources please visit [www.childrensdefense.org/cits](http://www.childrensdefense.org/cits)