



WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION FACT SHEET



EARLY CHILDHOOD FACT SHEET

Compiled in June 2019

Children in poverty

- In 2017, 19% of children under age 6 lived in poor families. 41% of young children lived in low-income families, which have incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level¹
- About 33% of black young children and 26% of Hispanic young children lived in poverty in 2017, while 12% of white non-Hispanic young children lived in poverty. Even higher numbers of young children live in low-income households: 61% of Black children, 56% of Hispanic children, and 28% of white children.¹
- Children were more likely in 2017 to have at least one parent who had full-time, year-round employment. But more families faced high housing costs, and a greater percentage lived in high-poverty areas.²
- The child poverty rate for 2017 ranged from a low of 10 percent in New Hampshire to a high of 28 percent in Louisiana. In Puerto Rico, 58 percent of children lived in poverty.²
- The poverty rate among African-American, and American Indian children (33 percent for both) was three times the rate for white and Asian and Pacific Islander children (11 percent for both) in 2017. The poverty rate for Latino kids (26 percent) was higher than the national average.²
- Roughly half of all American Indian (47 percent) and 42 percent of African American children had no parent with full-time, year-round employment in 2017, compared with 32 percent of Latino children, 31 percent of multiracial children and 21 percent of white and Asian and Pacific Islander children.²
- Across the nation, 31 percent of children (22.9 million) lived in families with a high housing cost burden in 2017, compared with 41 percent (30.1 million) in 2010.²
- During the period from 2013 to 2017, 12 percent of children lived in high-poverty areas, a total of 8.5 million. Between 1990 and 2000, the likelihood that a child would grow up in an area of concentrated poverty declined from 11 percent to 9 percent.⁵⁸ After rising as high as 14 percent in 2009–13, the rate has leveled off and dropped for the second consecutive year.²
- African-American (28 percent), American Indian (28 percent) and Latino (19 percent) children were much more likely to have lived in high-poverty areas than their multiracial (10 percent), Asian and Pacific Islander (6 percent) and white (4 percent) counterparts.²

Children in school

- Sixty-five percent of fourth-graders in public school were not proficient readers in 2017 — an alarming rate though slightly improved from 2009, when 68 percent scored not proficient.²
- In 2017, 81 percent of African-American, 79 percent of American Indian, 78 percent of Latino and 60 percent of multiracial fourthgraders were not proficient in reading, compared with 54 percent of white and 44 percent of Asian and Pacific Islander students²
- In 2016–17, 11 percent of white students did not graduate from high school on time. The rates for American Indian and African American students were at least twice as high, at 28 percent and 22 percent, respectively. The rate for Latino students was 20 percent²

¹ Child Care and Early Education Equity: A State Action Agenda

² 2019 KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK STATE TRENDS IN CHILD WELL-BEING



WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION FACT SHEET



- Steady improvements occurred since 2010–11, when 21 percent of high school students failed to graduate in four years. Nationally, about one in seven (15 percent) did not graduate on time in the 2016–17 school year, an all-time low.²
- Only two out of three Latino high school students and three out of five of Black high school students attend schools that offer the full range of math and science courses, defined by the Office of Civil Rights.³
- Nationally, Black students are three times as likely to be suspended than their white peers. Latino students are 1.5 times more likely to be suspended than their white peers³
- Students of color are more likely to go to schools with lower-quality facilities such as temporary, portable classrooms. A recent study found that 45% of schools with more than 50% of students of color have temporary, portable buildings compared with only 13% of schools with less than 6% of students of color.³
- Students of color are more likely to be assigned to inexperienced, out-of-field, academically weaker, and less effective teachers than are other students.³
- Black and Latino students are disproportionately channeled into the school-to-prison pipeline.³
- One in four African American and nearly one in six Latino students still attend “dropout factories,” high schools where fewer than 60% of students graduate.³
- Black girls are suspended 6x more than their white counterparts, while Black boys are suspended 3x more
- **In New York City during the 2011-2012 school year, 90 percent of all girls expelled from school were Black. No white girls in the entire city were expelled.**

Education in NY

- In 2015-16, outside New York City, only 1,259 full-day pre-K spots—a gain of only 1%. There are still 89,587 four-year olds waiting for full-day pre-K outside New York City.⁴
- Mostly importantly, in low-income communities outside of New York City, a whopping 63% of four-year-olds have no seat in full-day pre-K.⁴
- New York City provides full day pre-K to 68,547, an increase of 50,000 over the past two years, through the Pre-K for All program.⁴
- 78% of children eligible for subsidized child care are being denied the subsidized child care for which they qualify.⁴
- 63% of the state’s four-year-olds in low-income communities outside of New York City have no seat in full-day pre-K.⁴

Health

- Nationally, low birth-weight babies represented 8.3 percent of all live births in 2017. This was the third year in a row that the percentage of babies born at a low birth weight increased. The 2017 rate matched 2006’s four-decade high of 8.3 percent.

³ Organizing with a gender frame

⁴ Too many children left behind



WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION FACT SHEET



- Among racial and ethnic groups, African-American babies were most likely to be born at a low birth weight, at 13.4 percent of live births in 2017. This number was close to twice the rates for Latino (7.4 percent) and white (7.0 percent) infants. The rate increased from 2016 for all groups except white babies, for whom the rate remained the same.²
- Across the nation, 5 percent of children ages 18 and under (3.9 million) lacked health insurance in 2017.²
- American Indian (13 percent) and Latino (8 percent) children were far more likely to be uninsured than their African-American (5 percent), Asian and Pacific Islander (4 percent), multiracial (4 percent) and white (4 percent) peers.²
- The 2017 mortality rate for African-American children and teens (38 per 100,000) was noticeably higher than the death rates for children and youth of other racial and ethnic groups.²
- In 2017, 20,337 children and youths ages 1 to 19 died in the United States, which translates into a mortality rate of 26 per 100,000 children and teens. Although unchanged since 2010, the rate has declined dramatically since 1990, when it was 46 per 100,000.²
- In 2016–17, 4 percent of teens ages 12 to 17, or just over 1 million youths, had abused or were dependent on alcohol or drugs during the past year.²
- Among racial and ethnic groups, Asian teens were the least likely (2 percent) to abuse or be dependent on alcohol or drugs, while American Indian and multiracial teens were the most likely (5 percent). Latino and white teens had a 4 percent alcohol and drug abuse rate, while African-American youth were at 3 percent.²

Family

- The percentage of children living in singleparent families remained unchanged between 2010 and 2017. In 2017, 34 percent of children (24 million) lived in single-parent families.²
- Two-thirds of African-American children (65 percent), more than half of American Indian children (54 percent) and two-fifths of Latino and multiracial children (41 percent) lived in single-parent families in 2017. By comparison, 24 percent of white children and 15 percent of Asian and Pacific Islander children lived in single-parent households.²
- In 2017, 13 percent of children lived in households headed by an adult without a high school diploma. This was the first improvement seen in this indicator since 2013. While that is only slightly better than the rate in 2010 (15 percent), it was a substantial improvement since 1990, when 22 percent of children lived with parents who lacked a high school diploma.²
- Almost one-third of Latino children (31 percent) lived in households headed by someone without a high school diploma. That is more than 2.5 times the rate for African-American children (12 percent), more than three times the rate for Asian and Pacific Islander children (10 percent) and more than six times the rate for white children (5 percent).²
- In 2017, 194,377 babies were born to mothers ages 15 to 19. That translates into a birth rate of 19 births per 1,000 teens, which is less than one-third the rate in 1990 (60 births per 1,000 teens).²
- Latina and African-American teens had the highest birth rates (29 births per 1,000) across major racial and ethnic groups. Although still high, the 2017 teen birth rate was the lowest on record for both groups.²



WNY WOMEN'S FOUNDATION FACT SHEET



Parents role in early childhood

- Toddlers whose mothers work non-standard hours demonstrate worse sensory perception, memory, learning, problem solving, verbal communication, and expressive language.⁵
- Preschoolers whose mothers work nonstandard hours exhibit more negative behavior (depression, anxiety, withdrawal, aggression).⁵
- Parents' variable schedules require irregular family mealtimes and child bedtimes that interfere with children's healthy development.⁵
- For young children, mothers with non-standard schedules must make inconsistent and poorer quality child care arrangements.⁵
- Parents with non-standard schedules can engage in fewer pre-academic activities with children, such as reading books, telling stories, and practicing reading, writing, or math skills.⁵
- Parents with non-standard hours are more tired, anxious, irritable, and stressed, making children's delinquency, aggression, and other negative behaviors more likely.⁵
- Non-standard schedules are more common among black workers and less-educated workers, and also among mothers who are low-income, younger, and have spent more years as single parents.⁵
- Focusing on adults at the ages when they are likely to be raising children, at age 29 blacks are about 60 percent more likely to work a non-daytime schedule than whites and Asians, and about 24 percent more likely to have non-standard schedules of all kinds, including non-daytime, rotating shift, or variable schedules.⁵
- Ten years later, at age 39, the differences persist: Blacks are about 55 percent more likely to be assigned non-daytime shifts than whites and Asians, and about 20 percent more likely to work non-standard schedules of all kinds⁵

⁵ PARENTS' NON-STANDARD WORK SCHEDULES MAKE ADEQUATE CHILDCARE DIFFICULT