

Queens County

Child Poverty in New York



Pre-pandemic data indicates that one in five children in New York — nearly 792,000 children — live in poverty,ⁱ with our 15th Congressional district holding the nation's highest child poverty rate. Impoverished children suffer worse health outcomes in many indicators, including increased incidence of infant mortality, low birth weight, asthma, elevated blood lead levels and obesity. Children who grow up poor are also more likely to become incarcerated, experience parental incarceration and become poor adults. *Child poverty in New York is an urgent crisis, costing our State approximately \$55,102,000,000 every year.*

Child Poverty in Queens County ⁱⁱ

- **72,182** children live in poverty in Queens County.
 - **16 percent** of children in the county live below the poverty line, as compared to New York State's overall child poverty rate of **20 percent**.



Racial Disparities in Queens County

- **81 percent** of children in Queens County are children of color. ⁱⁱⁱ Children of color are disproportionately poor in Queens County:
 - **15 percent** of Black children are poor. ^{iv}
 - **20 percent** of Hispanic or Latino children are poor. ^v
 - **9 percent** of White children are poor. ^{vi}
 - **16 percent** of Asian children are poor. ^{vii}
 - Black and Hispanic children in Queens County are **up to two times** more likely to be poor than white children. ^{viii}

Cost of Child Poverty in Queens County

- The annual cost of child poverty in the United States is estimated to be \$1.03 trillion, or around \$69,581 per child.^{ix} The cost of child poverty includes:
 - Increased health costs
 - Reduced earnings
 - Increased costs associated with homelessness
 - Increased costs associated with child welfare
 - Increased criminal justice costs
- Assuming that the per child cost of child poverty in Queens County is comparable to the per child cost of child poverty in the United States, CDF-NY estimates that the annual cost of child poverty in Queens County is around **\$5,022,000,000**.^x

ⁱ [U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables. Table B17020: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Age.](#)

ⁱⁱ [U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables. Table S1701: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months.](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ [U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables. Table S0901: Children Characteristics.](#)

^{iv} [U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables. Table B17020B: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Age \(Black or African American Alone\).](#)

^v [U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables. Table B17020I: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Age \(Hispanic or Latino\).](#)

^{vi} [U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables. Table B17020H: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Age \(White Alone, Not Hispanic or Latino\).](#)

^{vii} [U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables. Table B17020D: Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months by Age \(Asian Alone\).](#)

^{viii} Calculated using U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables [B17020B](#), [B17020I](#) and [B17020H](#).

^{ix} [McLaughlin, Michael, and Mark R Rank. "Estimating the Economic Cost of Childhood Poverty in the United States." *Social Work Research* 42, no. 2 \(2018\): 73–83. \[https://openscholarship.wustl.edu/csd_research/836/\]\(https://openscholarship.wustl.edu/csd_research/836/\).](#)

^x [McLaughlin, Michael, and Mark R Rank. "Estimating the Economic Cost of Childhood Poverty in the United States." *Social Work Research* 42, no. 2 \(2018\): 73–83. \[https://openscholarship.wustl.edu/csd_research/836/\]\(https://openscholarship.wustl.edu/csd_research/836/\).](#)