

Introduction

For eight decades, research and fact-finding have been foundational pillars of Citizens' Committee for Children of New York's child advocacy. Since 1993, through our hallmark publication *Keeping Track of New York City's Children*, CCC has biennially provided detailed, community-specific data to better understand the status and experiences of New York City's children, families and communities and inform calls to action to combat disparities and improve well-being. This desk reference compliments our online resource data.cccnewyork.org, offering hundreds of data points on child and family well-being in New York City.

This 2024 edition draws inspiration from the New York City (NYC) charter, and its new preamble born out of the work of the Racial Justice Commission and approved by New York City Voters.

“We strive to be a city where the value, talents, and contributions of every New Yorker are recognized and embraced, and where equity and inclusiveness, community empowerment, accessibility, and opportunity for every New Yorker are the unwavering standards to which we are held accountable in all aspects of governance, business, and service delivery.”

With an eye towards building a diverse, inclusive and equitable city that measures up to our ideals as New Yorkers, we leverage data to illustrate both strengths and shortcomings in the well-being experienced by New Yorkers. We believe

transparent, accessible data can and should play a fundamental role in collective efforts to ensure every child is healthy, housed, educated and safe as we have seen first-hand how data can influence decision making and directly shape the trajectories of children's lives.

This release of *Keeping Track* comes in the wake of significant challenges, including the loss of tens of thousands of New Yorkers due to the COVID-19 pandemic and in the context of socio-economic recovery that has been far from equitable.

In this book, we compile data across multiple domains of well-being that highlight not just the barriers to well-being facing children, families and communities, but also the strengths and resources that they possess. We illustrate disparities along demographic and geographic

lines to identify gaps in outcomes that have resulted from systemic racism and historical discrimination of marginalized groups. By using disaggregated data, we shed light on the unique experiences across different communities, as well as by age, race and gender, ensuring that our data analysis captures the diversity of New York City. We share our findings to further public knowledge and drive greater inquiry, as well as inform legislative, budgetary and administrative actions that can improve the lives of children and their families across communities.

We begin with an overview of the demographics of New York City's children and families, followed by facts about various aspects of children's lives—Economic Security, Housing, Health, Education, Youth, and Community Environment. We provide detailed data at the neighborhood level, from zip codes to school districts, concluding with geographic profiles of the 59 community districts, the five boroughs, and New York City as a whole. Each chapter highlights the most current data alongside pre-existing trends to understand our historical trajectory and current issues. We present the data book as a resource that can help to guide our collective path forward to building a more equitable city.

The COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery and New York's Resilience

The last few years have been immensely challenging for New York City's children and families with disruption to everyday lives from the COVID-19 crisis to building towards recovery from setbacks in well-being. Many communities impacted the most by COVID-19 faced risks to their well-being prior to COVID-19. The crisis brought to the forefront existing inequities and discrimination that disproportionately impact people with low incomes, immigrants, and people of color, leaving them especially vulnerable during a public health crisis.

Despite the setback from the pandemic, the city overall has shown resilience in recovery in financial and economic life. The unemployment rate has decreased, from a high of 12% in 2020 to 5% in 2023, and labor force participation has increased from 55% in 2020 to 63% in 2022. While the pandemic impacted school enrollment, student engagement and learning, and fiscal stability among service providers; the city's education continuum, in general, has also shown resilience. 3-K enrollment has more than doubled from 17,500 3-year-olds enrolled in 2019 to 39,800 enrolled in 2023. High school graduation rates have continued to increase for all major race/ethnicity groups. Young people have shown remarkable perseverance with teenage unemployment rates decreasing from 31% in 2017 to 27% in 2022. The teenage birth rate reached a record low of 9.4 (per 1,000) reflecting a trend of decreasing rates in the past decade.

However, these overall trends while positive mask persistent inequities that cut across health, educational outcomes, family income and employment stability, housing affordability and conditions, and community safety and more. It is critical to note in every discussion of inequities, that they do not stem from inherent differences in people, they are rather a result of historical oppression and systemic harm by policies and institutions.

The far-reaching impacts of the pandemic have meant that pre-existing social and economic disparities among children and families in far too many communities grew worse and for many, true recovery has not yet come. In particular, the unaffordability crisis threatens housing security and has only worsened the homelessness crisis. Economic precarity from unstable employment and persistently low wages, now place an enormous financial burden on New Yorkers, especially a disproportionate number of households of color with children.

In the health domain, while the COVID vaccination rate in the city is an impressive 90% most young children remain unvaccinated, especially in Black and Latiné communities. High school youth have been reporting higher rates of depression-related symptoms each year. Racial disparities in health are also illustrated by the fact that Black women continue to experience the highest numbers for pregnancy related

death, and that the Black community was so severely impacted by COVID that life expectancy decreased noticeably only for this group.

FINDING AND MAKING INVESTMENTS IN RESILIENCY

5% NYC unemployment

in 2023 shows improvement since record highs in 2020.

Less than 1%

of families leaving shelter with housing subsidies return within a year.

98% of NYC Children

are covered by health insurance.

Over 190,000 children and youth

were served in city after school programs in FY2023, while the Summer Youth Employment Program reached a record number of 100,000 youth.

Over 44%

of children in foster care are in kinship placements, which cause least disruption for children, compared to traditional foster care placements.

Opportunities in Data Collection

Persistent inequities are further revealed to impact Black and Latiné communities disproportionately. Discriminatory policing practices are evidenced by the NYPD's reports of Stop-Question-Frisk, which have doubled in the past two years. 91% of these reports involving Black and Latiné individuals. Meanwhile the average length of stay in Juvenile Detention for unsentenced Adolescent Offenders has gone from 26 days in 2019 to 103 days in 2023.

Furthermore, immigrants face unique barriers to services and programs due to language and eligibility criteria. Non-citizens are five times more likely than citizens to lack health insurance. Immigrant children are enrolled less in early childhood education programs than their peers. English Language Learners in public schools have the lowest passing rates in state tests.

Combatting inequities requires policies and practices that correct for disinvestment in historically marginalized communities and result in action committed to improving the well-being of ALL children and families, and that are inclusive of NYC's rich diversity. Such achievements are within reach and will move our city in the direction of our City Charter ideals—equity, inclusivity, community empowerment, accessibility, opportunity, and accountability.

The 2024 data book draws from a wide array of data sources covering data from before the pandemic, during it, and the recovery to paint a picture of the varied experience of New York City's children and families. To tell this story, we bring together data from a mix of local, state, and federal agencies, including administrative data and longstanding surveys.

We also make use of new sources of reporting from city and state agencies, from COVID-19 data at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, to expand available data illustrating New Yorkers' lives. While these data do not tell the entire story, they provide us with contextual understanding of the status and progress of children and form a basis for creating better public policy for families and their children. Analysis using race and ethnicity categories aim to better reflect our communities while balancing the categories selected in administrative data for instance, the Census Bureau.

Data collection and reporting is integral to understanding the pandemic recovery and general well-being of families and children. Through data disaggregation by race/ethnicity, immigration status/language barriers, income levels, and gender, this data book, alongside our online database, offers resources through which to identify data points that can be used as markers of progress and equity.

Terms for Race Categories

CCC uses the race and ethnicity categories named in distinct datasets in order to portray self-reported data accurately. However, we use different terminology when discussing race categories in general, outside of data analysis, to be as inclusive as possible and better reflect our communities.

Some examples include:

Latiné, Latinx or Latino—Following the Census categorization many of our indicators use the Hispanic or Latino category. Yet, some sources may use Latinx. Latiné is the default for CCC unless specified for a dataset.

Asian or Pacific Islander vs. Asian/ Pacific Islander (PI)/Native American (NA)—The U.S. Census Bureau Data uses the term “Asian or Pacific Islander” which encompasses both Asians and Pacific Islanders. On the other hand, the Bureau of Early Intervention under the NYC Department of Health (in some of their reports) uses the latter designation for all individuals that fit that group.

However, we do change any race categorization from “Other” or “Other Race” to the term “Another Race,” as a practice to recognize people in this category, even if they are not identified with a group, regardless of dataset terminology.