



The State of the Berks County Child

County-level facts on child well-being

Census 2000

September 2003

KIDS COUNT • KIDS COUNT • KIDS COUNT • KIDS COUNT • KIDS COUNT • KIDS COUNT • KIDS COUNT • KIDS COUNT • KIDS COUNT

**Find extensive data by legislative district at
www.papartnerships.org/kc/**

Poverty

The impact of hardship

On this page: Poverty by child's age, family, and neighborhood.

- Children in poverty can face insurmountable barriers to success. They are likelier to suffer abuse or neglect. Their school performance is hampered by the greater likelihood of learning disabilities, repeating grades, and dropping out. They are likelier to become teen parents and to abuse drugs and alcohol.
- Younger children are especially vulnerable to poverty. They are likelier to die in infancy or early childhood, be hospitalized, go hungry, see conflicts in the home and violence in the neighborhood, and experience learning delays.
- Neighborhood concentration of poverty can expose children to crime, violence, and lead poisoning and other health hazards. Children may have less access to beneficial activities that offer recreation, learning, and socialization.

| | —Berks County— | | —Pennsylvania— | |
|--|----------------|---------|----------------|---------|
| | Number | Percent | Number | Percent |
| Poverty (\$18,400 for a family of 4, 2003) | | | | |
| • Below 50% poverty | | | | |
| Children under age 18 | 5,611 | 6.2% | 198,369 | 6.9% |
| Children under age 6 | 2,054 | 7.5% | 69,852 | 8.0% |
| • Below 100% poverty | | | | |
| Adults ages 18 to 64 | 18,150 | 8.3% | 718,277 | 10.0% |
| Children under age 18 | 12,003 | 13.4% | 421,745 | 14.7% |
| Children ages 6 to 11 | 4,544 | 14.1% | 151,426 | 15.1% |
| Children age 5 | 735 | 15.0% | 25,021 | 16.1% |
| Children under age 5 | 3,360 | 14.9% | 116,166 | 16.2% |
| • Below 200% poverty | | | | |
| Children under age 18 | 27,804 | 30.9% | 987,868 | 34.4% |
| Children under age 6 | 9,147 | 33.4% | 321,710 | 37.0% |
| Families and Children Below Poverty | | | | |
| • Related children under age 18 in married-couple families below poverty | 3,896 | 5.8% | 127,526 | 6.1% |
| • Related children under age 18 in single-mother families below poverty | 6,621 | 40.2% | 250,552 | 41.2% |
| • Related children under age 18 in single-father families below poverty | 1,103 | 19.8% | 30,001 | 19.0% |
| • Related children under age 5 in single-mother families below poverty | 1,986 | 49.8% | 71,433 | 50.6% |
| Poverty Neighborhoods | | | | |
| • Children under age 18 living in neighborhoods where 20% or more of the population is below poverty | 15,771 | 17.2% | 448,161 | 15.3% |

All data, U.S. Census of Population and Housing. Published by Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children, a strong, effective and trusted voice to improve the health, early education, and well-being of the Commonwealth's children, 1-800-257-2030; www.papartnerships.org. See www.papartnerships.org for research citations. Funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, www.aecf.org.