



# The State of the Chester County Child

## County-level facts on child well-being

Census 2000

September 2003

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**Find extensive data by legislative district at  
[www.papartnerships.org/kc/](http://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.

	—Chester County—		—Pennsylvania—	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
<b>Poverty (\$18,400 for a family of 4, 2003)</b>				
• Below 50% poverty				
Children under age 18	2,916	2.6%	198,369	6.9%
Children under age 6	954	2.7%	69,852	8.0%
• Below 100% poverty				
Adults ages 18 to 64	13,361	5.1%	718,277	10.0%
Children under age 18	6,082	5.4%	421,745	14.7%
Children ages 6 to 11	2,097	5.2%	151,426	15.1%
Children age 5	318	5.4%	25,021	16.1%
Children under age 5	1,611	5.6%	116,166	16.2%
• Below 200% poverty				
Children under age 18	16,957	15.2%	987,868	34.4%
Children under age 6	5,405	15.6%	321,710	37.0%
<b>Families and Children Below Poverty</b>				
• Related children under age 18 in married-couple families below poverty	2,247	2.4%	127,526	6.1%
• Related children under age 18 in single-mother families below poverty	2,983	23.4%	250,552	41.2%
• Related children under age 18 in single-father families below poverty	451	10.5%	30,001	19.0%
• Related children under age 5 in single-mother families below poverty	846	33.5%	71,433	50.6%
<b>Poverty Neighborhoods</b>				
• Children under age 18 living in neighborhoods where 20% or more of the population is below poverty	3,688	3.2%	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](http://www.papartnerships.org). See [www.papartnerships.org](http://www.papartnerships.org) for research citations. Funded by the Annie E. Casey Foundation, [www.aecf.org](http://www.aecf.org).