

Population

Population Diversity

The total population of children and young adults (birth through age 24) by age group and their reported race and ethnicity (Hispanic or Latino), as issued by the U.S. Census Bureau. Individuals who identify as Hispanic, Latino or Spanish may be of any race. The categories are mutually exclusive. Rates are displayed when 10% or more.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC), PCT12 (H-O)

Child and Young Adult Population

The total population of children and young adults (birth through age 24) by age group, as issued by the U.S. Census Bureau. Children are defined as the population under 18 years. The count of individuals under 18 years was divided by the total population to determine the percent of the population that is children.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC), P14

Poverty

Children Living in Poverty (<100% FPL)

Children birth through age 17 by their reported race or ethnicity (Hispanic or Latino) who live in families with incomes below 100 percent of the U.S. poverty threshold, as issued by the U.S. Census Bureau. This should be read as "3 in 10 Hispanic children live in poverty." The federal poverty definition consists of a series of thresholds based on family size and composition and is updated every year to account for inflation. In 2024, the poverty threshold for a family of four was \$31,200. The data are based on poverty status in the 12 months prior to the survey. Individuals who identify as Hispanic, Latino or Spanish may be of any race. Individuals who identify as American Indian and Alaska Native, Asian, Black or African American, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander, some other race, or two or more races may be of any ethnicity.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2024 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B17020 (B-I)

Poverty

Children birth through age 17 and young adults ages 18 through 24 who live in families with incomes below 100 percent of the U.S. poverty threshold, as issued by the U.S. Census Bureau. The federal poverty definition consists of a series of thresholds based on family size and composition and is updated every year to account for inflation. In 2024, the poverty threshold for a family of four with two related children was \$31,200. In 2025, this threshold increased to \$32,150. The data are based on the income received in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, (state) 2024 American Community Survey 1-year estimates, (county) 2024 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B17024

Low-Income

Children birth through age 17 and young adults ages 18 through 24 who live in families with incomes below 200 percent of the U.S. poverty threshold, as issued by the U.S. Census Bureau. The federal poverty definition consists of a series of thresholds based on family size and composition and is updated every year to account for inflation. In 2024, the 200 percent poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was \$62,400. In 2025, this threshold increased to \$64,300. The data are based on the income received in the 12 months prior to the survey.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, (state) 2024 American Community Survey 1-year estimates, (county) 2024 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B17024

Socioeconomic Data

Households with Children

The total number of family and non-family households with one or more people under 18 years divided by the total number of households. A non-family household consists of one person living alone or with non-relatives only.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, (state) 2024 American Community Survey 1-year estimates, (county) 2024 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B11005

Children Experiencing Homelessness

The unique, unduplicated count of children and youth birth through grade 12 experiencing homelessness and served by Pennsylvania's Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) Program. The county is based on where the child or youth was identified as homeless. The counts do not necessarily represent all children and youth experiencing homelessness.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education, 2024-25 Pennsylvania ECYEH Counts by County

Children Under 6 with All Caregivers in Labor Force

The estimated count of children under 6 years living in families and subfamilies where all available parents are in the civilian labor force divided by the total count of children under 6 years. The civilian labor force includes all people classified as employed or unemployed, excluding volunteers, institutionalized people and active duty members of the U.S. Armed Forces. A subfamily does not maintain its own household but lives in a household where the householder or the householder's spouse is a relative.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, (state) 2024 American Community Survey 1-year estimates, (county) 2024 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B23008

Median Income of Households with Children

The median annual income for families with their own children under age 18 through birth, marriage or adoption living in the household by family type. The median divides the income distribution into two equal parts: one-half of the cases falling below the median income and one-half above the median. Family income is the total of the incomes of all members related to the householder who are 15 years and older. Family type is defined as a married-couple family; male householder, no spouse present; and female householder, no spouse present.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, (state) 2024 American Community Survey 1-year estimates, (county) 2024 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B19126

Educational Attainment (25+)

The highest degree or the highest level of school completed for the population age 25 and older. Less than High School diploma includes people who did not complete schooling, dropped out between nursery school to 12th grade or did not receive a diploma. High school graduate or GED includes people whose highest degree was a high school diploma or its equivalent. Some college or Associate's includes people who attended college but did not receive a degree and people who received an associate's degree. Bachelor's or higher includes anyone who received a bachelor's, master's or professional school or doctorate degree.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, (state) 2024 American Community Survey 1-year estimates, (county) 2024 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B15002

Unemployment Rate

The unemployment rate as provided by Pennsylvania's Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, Center for Workforce Information and Analysis, 2025 LAUS

Children in Households Receiving Public Assistance

The estimated count of children under 18 years living in family and non-family households with Supplemental Security Income (SSI), cash public assistance income, or Food Stamps/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in the past 12 months divided by the total count of children under 18 years. Family households include a married-couple family; male householder, no spouse present; and female householder, no spouse present. A non-family household consists of one person living alone or with non-relatives only. Cash public assistance includes general assistance and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, (state) 2024 American Community Survey 1-year estimates, (county) 2024 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B09010

Households with High Housing Cost Burden

The estimated count of occupied housing units with housing costs 30 percent or more of household income divided by the total number of occupied housing units. Occupied housing units include owner-occupied and renter-occupied. A housing unit includes a house, apartment, mobile home, a group of rooms or a single room that is occupied as separate living quarters.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, (state) 2024 American Community Survey 1-year estimates, (county) 2024 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B25106

Child Abuse and Neglect

Disproportionality

This compares the number of Child Protective Services (CPS) reports, the number of substantiated CPS reports, and the number of valid General Protective Services (GPS) allegations by race and ethnicity to the census population from birth through age 17 for the same race and ethnicity categories. High disproportionality occurs when the CPS/GPS rate is greater than the proportion of that race group within the general population. Individuals who identify as Hispanic may be of any race.

CPS reports include reports of suspected sexual abuse, physical abuse, or serious neglect. Substantiations include indicated or founded incidents of child abuse that meet the definition of child abuse per the Pennsylvania Child Protective Services Law. GPS allegations include less severe reports of general neglect such as inadequate housing, parental substance abuse, truancy and parent-child conflict. These are considered valid when the report of general neglect included allegations that were found to have merit.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, 2024 Annual Child Protective Services Report; U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC), P14

Top Substantiated Child Protective Services (CPS) Report Allegation

The most common indicated or founded incident of child abuse in the county. Refer to the source document for a list of all possible allegations. This indicator is not included on all profiles.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, 2024 Annual Child Protective Services Report

Top Valid General Protective Services (GPS) Report Concern

The most common allegation of general neglect found to have merit. Refer to the source document for a list of all possible concerns. This indicator is not included on all profiles.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, 2024 Annual Child Protective Services Report

2026 STATE OF THE CHILD

DEFINITIONS AND SOURCES

General Protective Services (GPS) Screened-Out Reports

The rate of GPS reports not formally investigated by the child welfare agency. The decision to screen-out a GPS report is made on a case-by-case basis by the county child welfare agency and could be due to a number of different factors.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, 2024 Annual Child Protective Services Report

Valid General Protective Services (GPS) Reports

The rate of assessed GPS reports determined by the county child welfare agency to have merit to the alleged concerns reported.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Human Services, 2024 Annual Child Protective Services Report

Early Care and Education

Children Enrolled in High-Quality, Publicly Funded Pre-K and Eligible Unserved

The number of 3- and 4-year-old children participating in high-quality, publicly funded pre-kindergarten programs. These programs include federal- and state-funded Head Start, school district pre-kindergarten, Child Care Works enrollments in Keystone STARS 3 and 4 facilities, Philadelphia pre-k (PHLpreK) in Keystone STARS 3 and 4 facilities, and Pre-K Counts. This number is subtracted from the census count of 3- and 4-year-olds living in families with incomes below 300 percent of the federal poverty level, as issued by the U.S. Census Bureau, to determine the total unserved.

Source: High-Quality, Publicly Funded Pre-K in PA, 2026 Fact Sheets and Mapping

Staff Needed to Serve All Eligible Pre-K Children

The number of eligible, unserved 3- and 4-year-olds divided by 10. This assumes 10 children per educator in a classroom. In Pennsylvania, pre-k programs must have a student:teacher ratio of no more than 20 students for one teacher and one teacher aide in a classroom (2 adults in a classroom for every 20 students).

Source: Child Care Works in PA, 2026 Fact Sheets and Mapping

Unserved Infants and Toddlers Eligible for Child Care Works

The number of eligible children birth through age 2 not enrolled in subsidized child care through Child Care Works divided by the estimated number of children under 3 years who have all available parents in the workforce and living in families with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level, as issued by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Source: Child Care Works in PA, 2026 Fact Sheets and Mapping

Children Under Age 5 in Child Care Works in High-Quality Care

The percent of infants, toddlers and preschool-age children receiving child care subsidies at a Keystone STARS 3 or 4 child care provider and/or a child care provider accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ASCI), Montessori Accreditation (AMS), Montessori Recognition (AMI), National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC), or the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA).

Source: Child Care Works in PA, 2026 Fact Sheets and Mapping

High-Quality Child Care Capacity for Children Under 5

The percent of licensed capacity in Keystone STARS 3 or 4 child care facilities or child care facilities accredited by the Association of Christian Schools International (ASCI), Montessori Accreditation (AMS), Montessori Recognition (AMI), National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC), or the National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA).

Source: Child Care Works in PA, 2026 Fact Sheets and Mapping

HOME VISITING

Families Most Likely to Benefit from Evidence-Based Home Visiting Services

The number of families with children under 6 years and the estimate of first-time pregnant mothers. Pregnancy estimates are calculated using families with an infant under age 1 and no older children, and are adjusted to approximate a nine-month period. This analysis is informed by the methodology derived by the National Home Visiting Resource Center (NHVRC). Refer to PPC's 2026 Home Visiting Fact Sheets Data Sources and Methodology for more information.

Source: PPC analysis of 2024 American Community Survey summary and microdata accessed through IPUMS USA

Families Receiving Evidence-Based Home Visiting Services

The number of children/families participating in evidence-based home visiting. The evidence-based home visiting models in Pennsylvania that received public (state and/or federal) funds to support their programs include Child First, Early Head Start, Family Check-Up®, Family Connects, Healthy Families America, Nurse-Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers and SafeCare Augmented®.

Source: PPC analysis of 2025-26 data from Pennsylvania Early Head Start grantees and Department of Human Services

Evidence-Based Home Visiting Models Receiving State Funds

The evidence-based home visiting models in Pennsylvania include Child First, Early Head Start, Family Check-Up®, Family Connects, Healthy Families America, Nurse-Family Partnership, Parents as Teachers and SafeCare Augmented®. Those models receiving public (state and/or federal) funds to support their programs are checked.

Source: PPC analysis of 2025-26 data from Pennsylvania Early Head Start grantees and Department of Human Services

Members Served in the Medical Assistance Maternal Home Visiting Program

The number of unique families with infants and/or toddlers receiving home visits through Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs). The MCOs can use home visiting programs designated as promising practices, research-informed, and evidence-based.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (2025)

K-12 Education

School District Enrollment

The actual enrollment in a school district based on the October Student Snapshot and the number of publicly-funded school districts with enrollment. This includes any school district with boundaries inside the county.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education, Future Ready PA Index, District Fast Facts for SFY2024-2025

Economically Disadvantaged Students

The percent of students identified as economically disadvantaged in the school district multiplied by the total district enrollment based on the October Student Snapshot, then divided by the grand total of relevant district enrollment. It is at the discretion of the school district to determine if a student is economically disadvantaged. Poverty data sources that may be used include Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) cases, census poor, Medicaid, children living in institutions that are neglected or delinquent, those supported in foster homes or free/reduced price lunch eligibility. This includes any school district with boundaries inside the county.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education, Future Ready PA Index, District Fast Facts for SFY2024-2025

2026 STATE OF THE CHILD

DEFINITIONS AND SOURCES

Proficiency

The percent of school district students who met the proficient or advanced level as measured by the Pennsylvania System of School Assessment (PSSA) multiplied by the total number of students scored, then divided by the grand test taker total for the relevant school districts. Proficiency levels are provided for third grade students in English Language Arts and eighth grade students in Mathematics. This includes any school district with boundaries inside the county.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education, 2025 PSSA District Level Data

Career and Technical Education Enrollment

The number of students funded by school districts and enrolled in career and technical education at career and technical centers (CTCs) or within single-district CTCs. This includes any school district with boundaries inside the county.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Education (2023-24)

Perinatal and Children's Health

Children Under 19 With No Health Insurance

The percent of children birth through age 18 not covered by any health insurance or whose only health coverage was Indian Health Service. The data are based on health insurance coverage at the time of the survey; interviews are conducted throughout the calendar year.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, (state) 2024 American Community Survey 1-year estimates, (county) 2024 American Community Survey 5-year estimates, Table B27001

Children Enrolled in Medicaid or With CHIP Coverage

The number of children birth through age 20 participating in Medical Assistance (MA) or in Pennsylvania's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) divided by the census population from birth through age 20, as issued by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Source: Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (September 2025); U.S. Census Bureau, 2020 Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File (DHC), P14

Children Enrolled in Health Coverage Through Pennie™

The number of children birth through age 20 enrolled in a health insurance plan available through Pennie™, Pennsylvania's state-based health insurance marketplace.

Source: Pennsylvania Health Insurance Exchange Authority (June 2025)

Infants and Toddlers in Early Intervention Part C

The number of children birth through age 2 receiving services and supports to assist them with their developmental delays and/or disabilities.

Source: Pennsylvania State Interagency Coordinating Council, Pennsylvania SICC Annual Report 2024-25

Infants, Young Children and Women in the Pennsylvania WIC Program

The number of enrolled pregnant women, breastfeeding women up to one year postpartum, women up to six months postpartum who are not breastfeeding, children birth through age 4, and foster children benefitting from the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

Source: Thriving PA, Fact Sheets: Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program - May 2026