


# The Outlook for Philly Kids - Post Pandemic

*The Case for an Ambitious Rebound*

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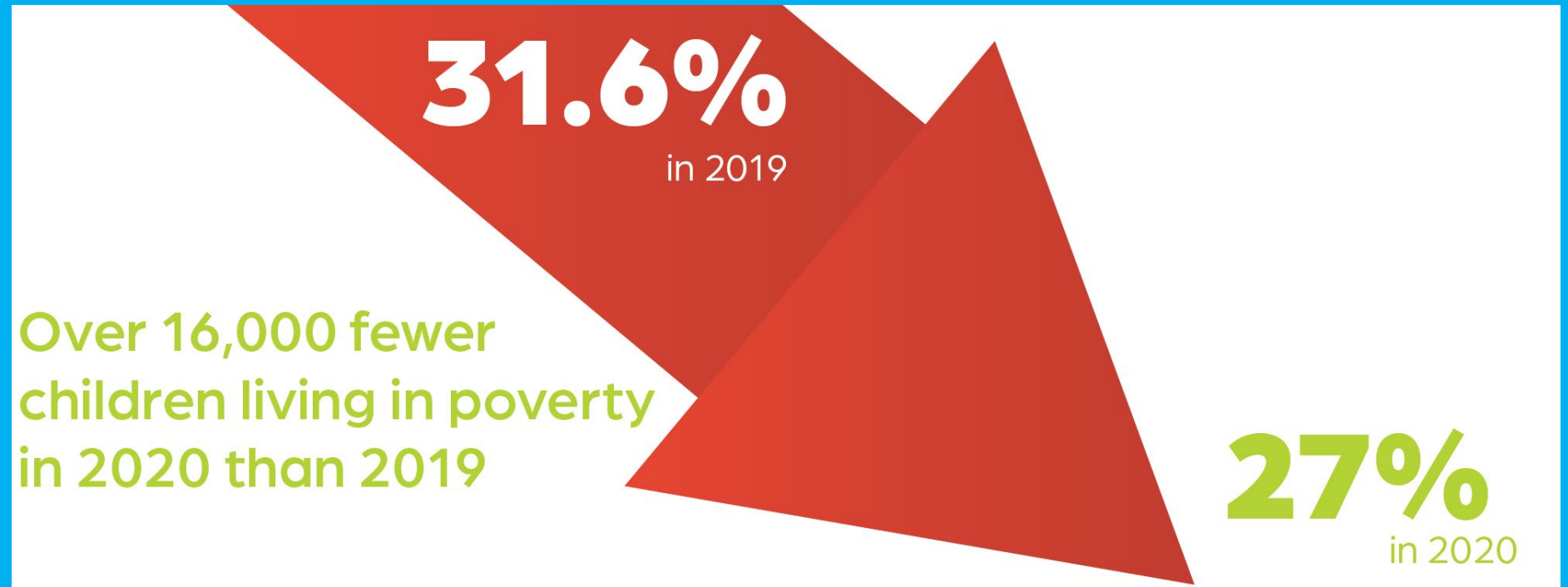
**COVID'S IMPACT  
ON CHILDREN IN  
PHILADELPHIA**

*The Case For An Ambitious Rebound*

*A Children First Report  
on Philadelphia's Children*  
August 2022

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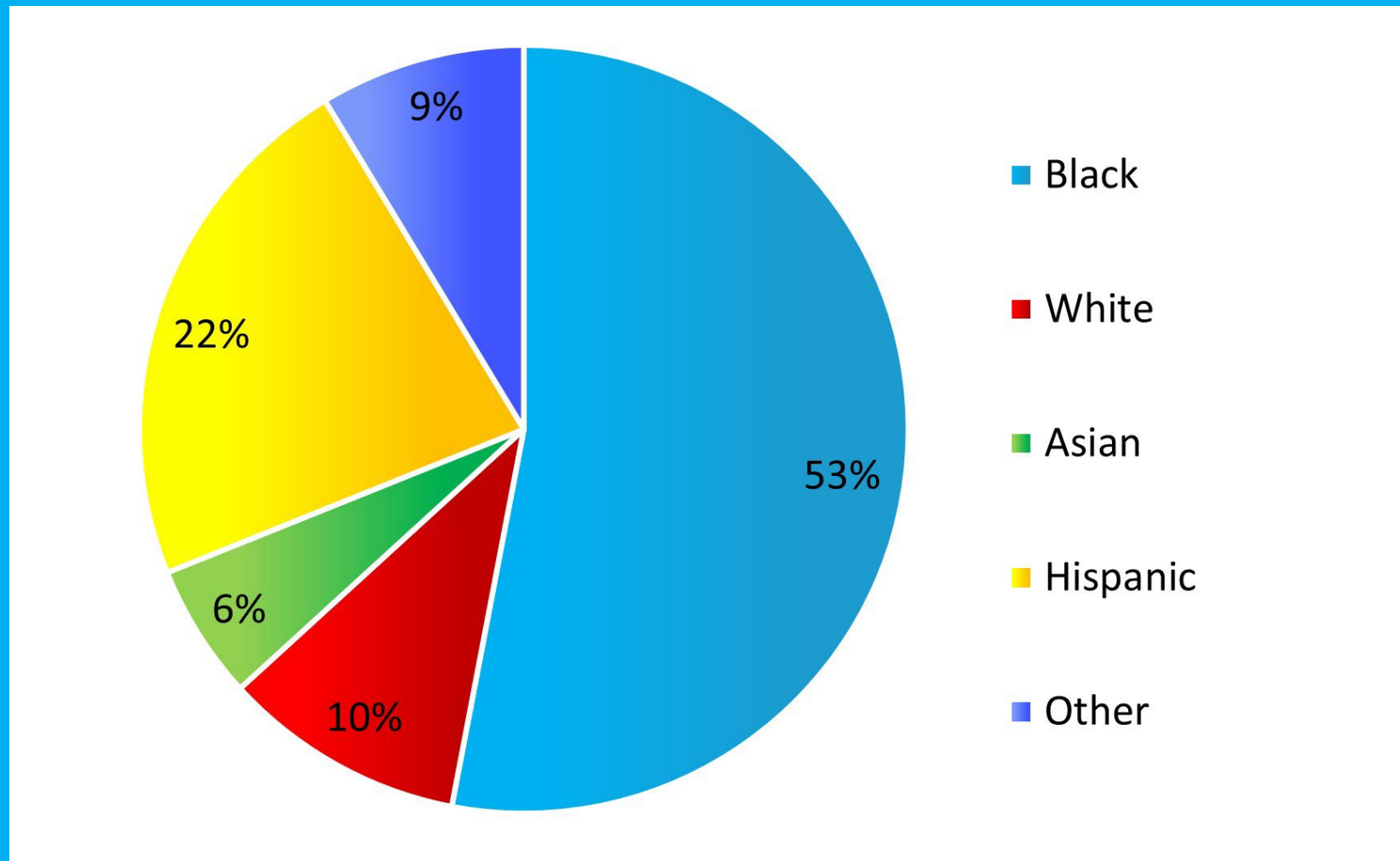
# Child Poverty Rate Dropped by 15%



US Census. SAIPE. 2019 – 2020

## Three in Four Children Enrolled in Medicaid Are Black or Hispanic

**26,000  
More  
Children  
Enrolled in  
Medicaid**



Share of Philadelphia Children Enrolled in Medicaid by Race. Data Request from PA DHS. Feb 2022

# The Child Tax Credit Delivered

*Medicaid and SNAP Protected Children*

26,000+

more children could see a doctor because they were covered by Medicaid



172,000+

children were able to eat healthy meals through SNAP food assistance, an increase of nearly 6,200 children since the start of the pandemic.



169,000+

families received over \$870 million through the Child Tax Credit



PA DHS, Feb 2020 – Feb 2022 and IRS Tax Stats County Data. 2018

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## **The Big Take-Away...**

## ***Good Public Policy Works***

**The enactment of the expanded Child Tax Credit reduced child poverty dramatically**

**Federally permitted safety-net flexibility kept children fed and healthy**

# The City/School District Stepped Up for Children

**70 Access Centers - 1,200 children a day**

**7.7 million meals distributed**

**50,000 new computers purchased**

**82,239 laptops distributed to 66% of students**

**19,000 students connected via hotspots – in part to an extraordinary donation from Comcast**

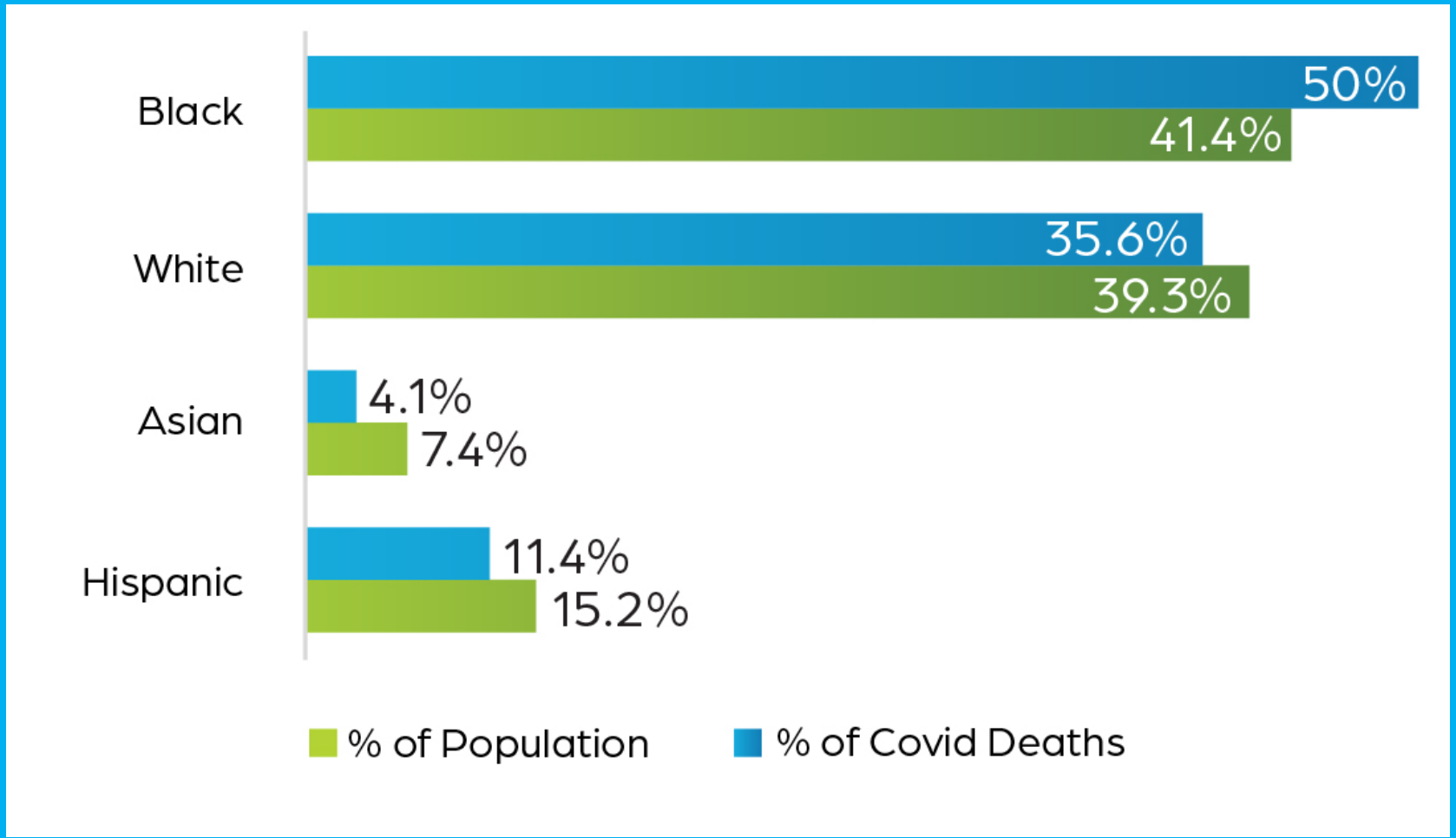
**2,000 students assisted by PHLConnectED**

City of Philadelphia report “Looking back on Philadelphia’s response to COVID-19.” March 2021

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# 5,100 Adults Perished

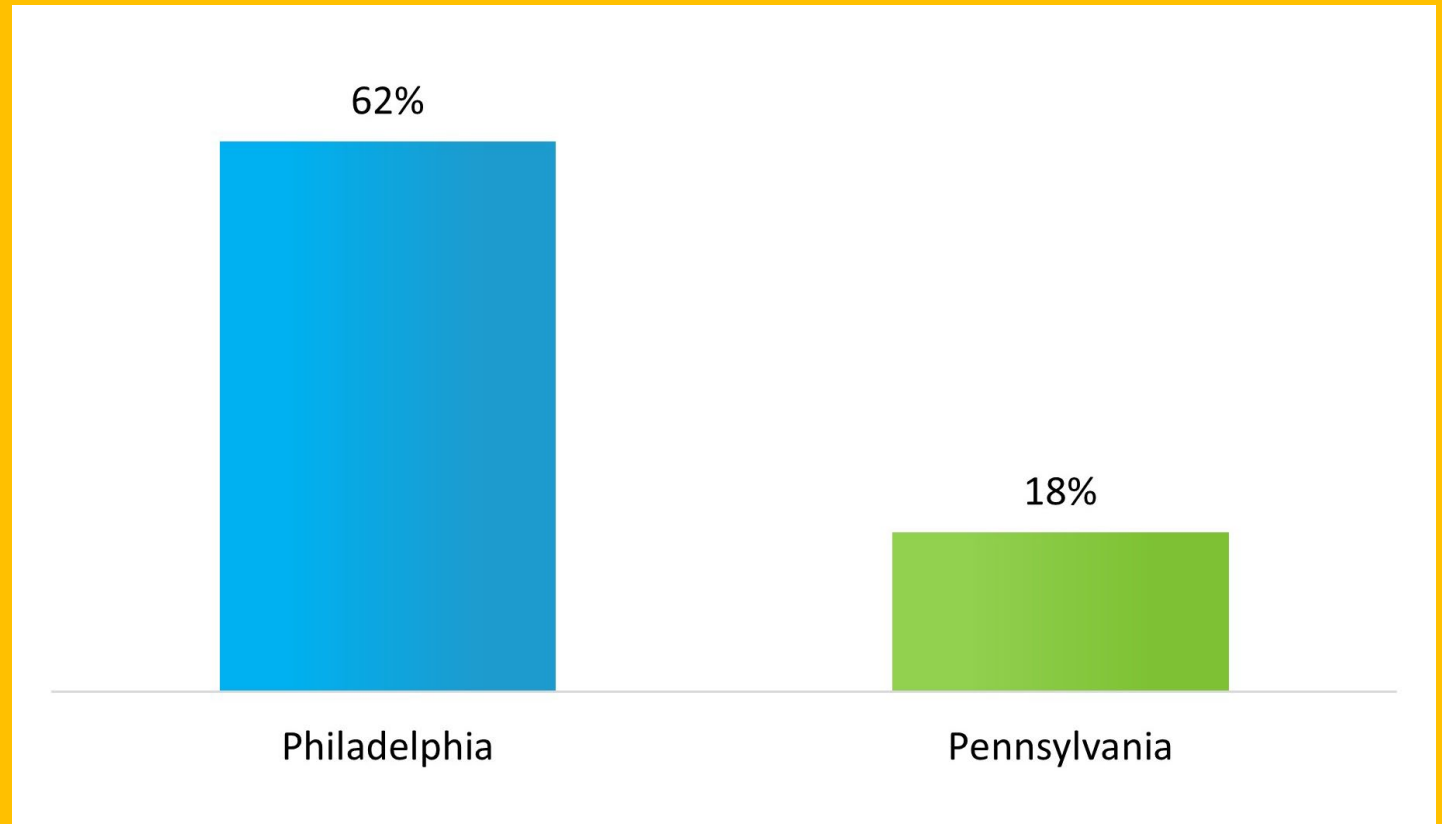
*Black Children  
Suffered a  
Disproportionate Loss  
of Family*



PA Dept of Health. COVID-19 Dashboard, June 2022 and American Community Survey. 2020

*COVID, Violence, School Closure Harmed Mental Health of Children*

**Philly Youth Calls to the Crisis Line Spiked 3.5x the State Increase**

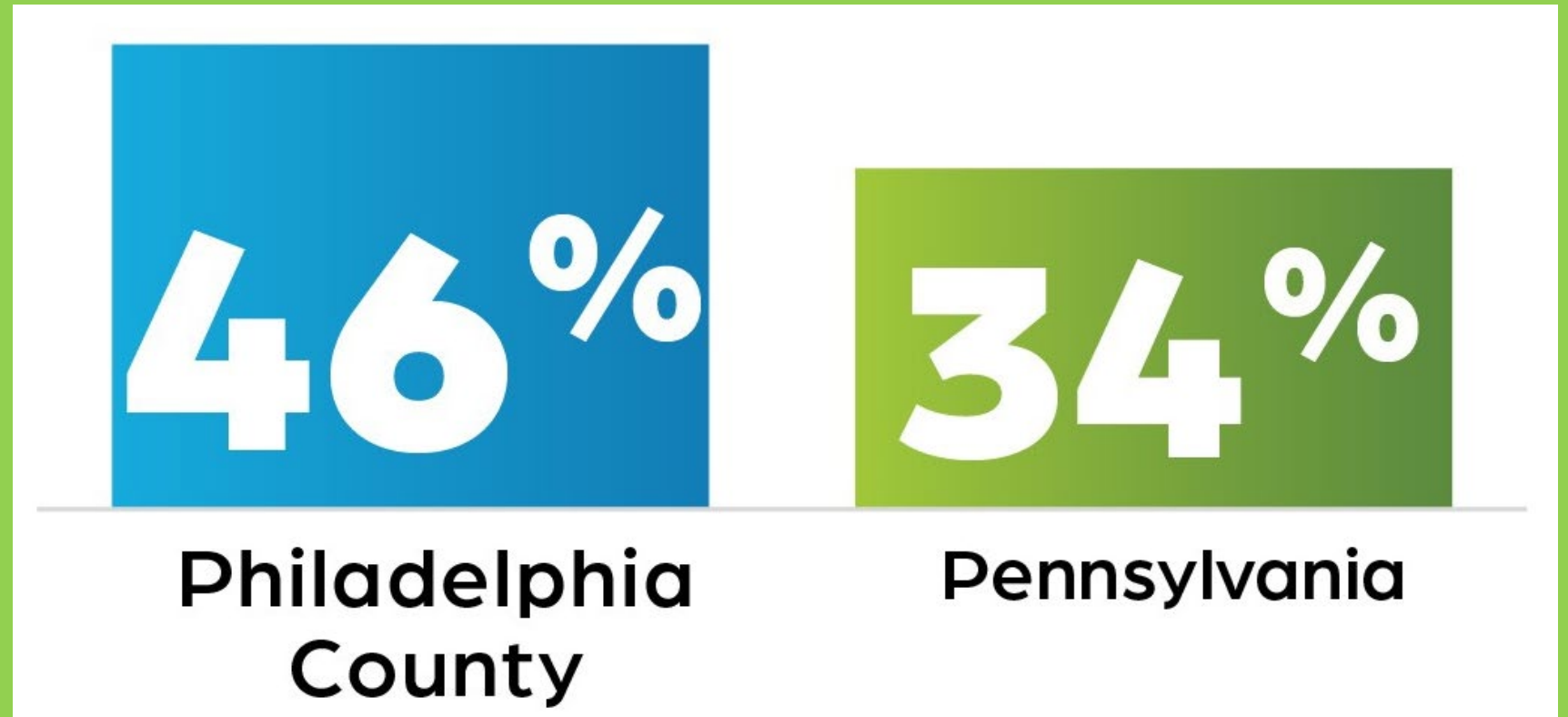


Office of the Attorney General. Safe2Say Something Annual Reports. 2018 – 2020



# Philly Parents Vaccinated their Children

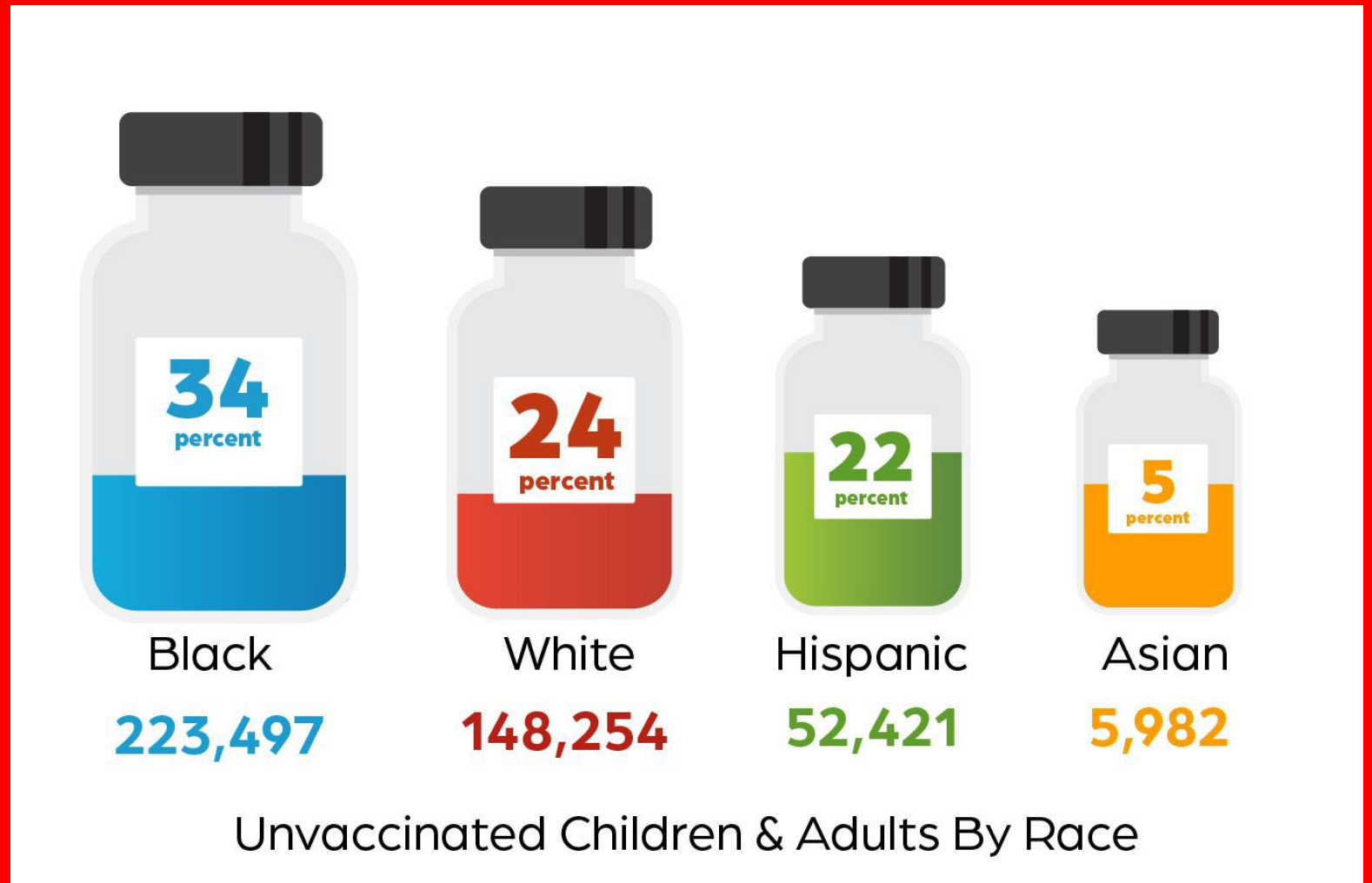
*Philly Vax Rate  
Higher Than PA Avg*



PA Dept of Health. Vaccine Dashboard. June 2022

# More than 400,000 Philadelphians Still At Risk

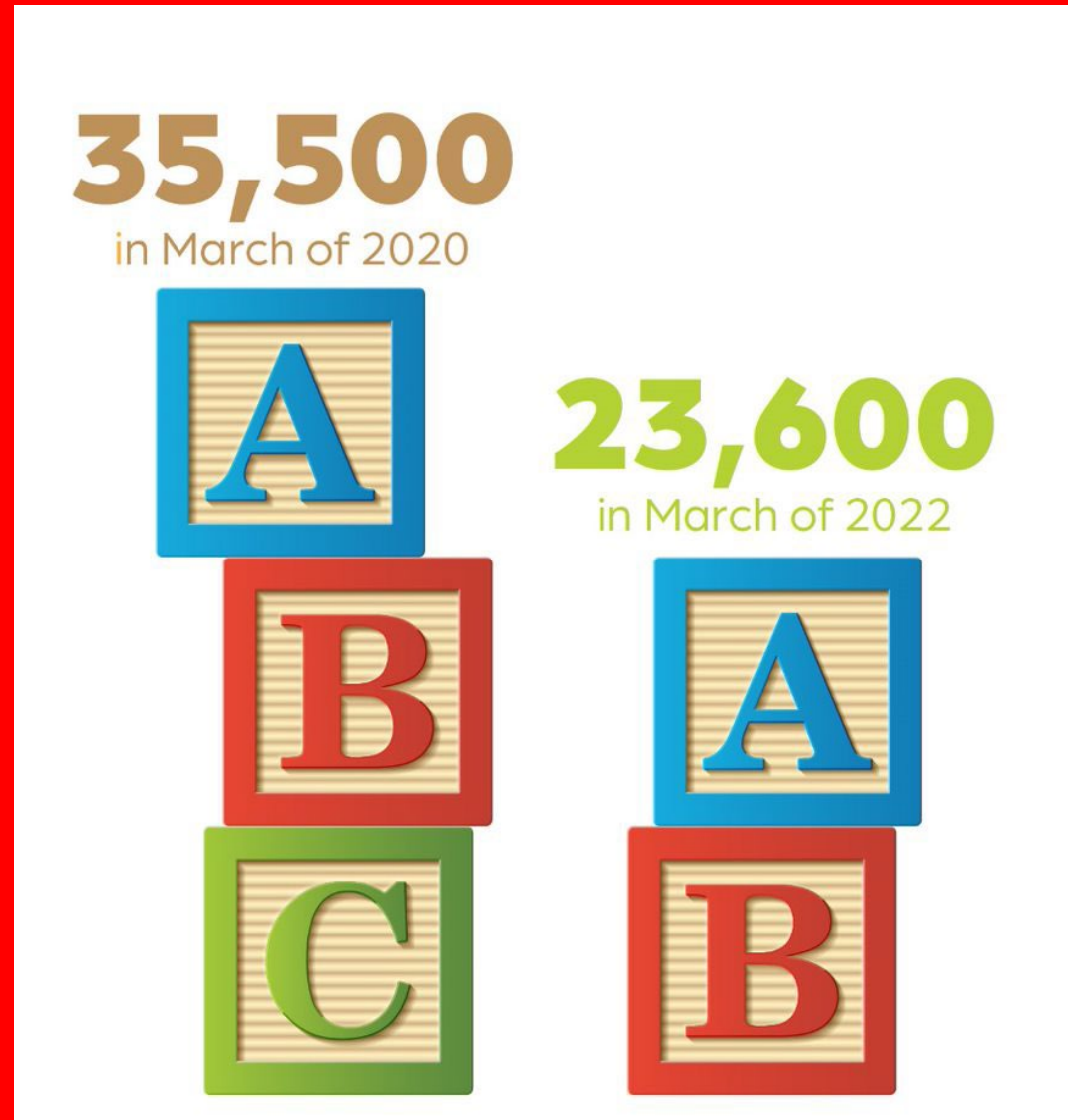
*Black Children Face  
Greatest Risk of  
Death or Serious  
Health Complications  
from COVID*



PA Dept of Health. Vaccine Dashboard. June 2022

# 12,000 Fewer Children Enrolled in Child Care

*Lost Opportunities  
for Children and  
Parents*

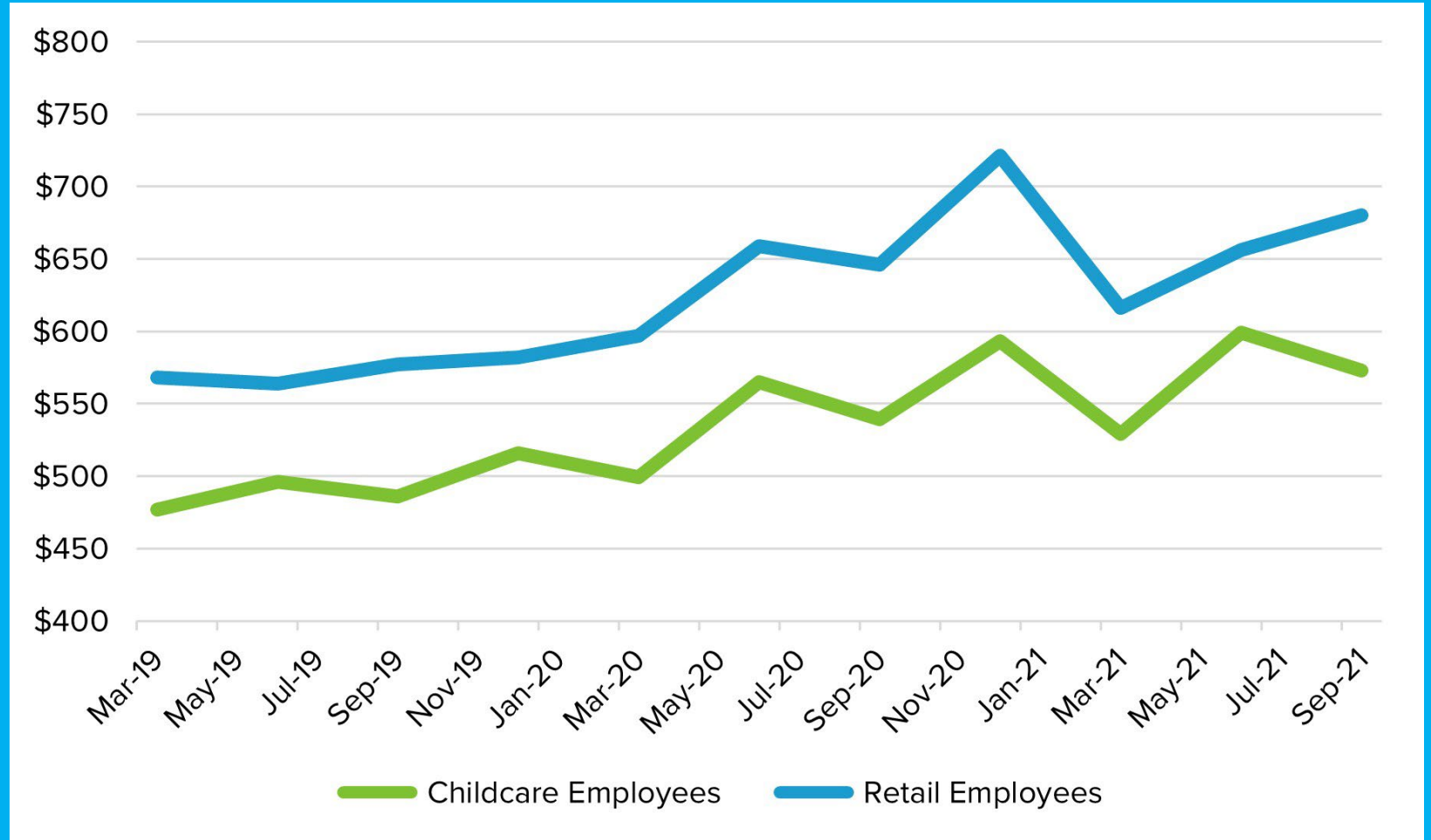


OCDEL Data Request. 2020 – 2022

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# Child Care Staff Exodus Retail Wages 19% Premium

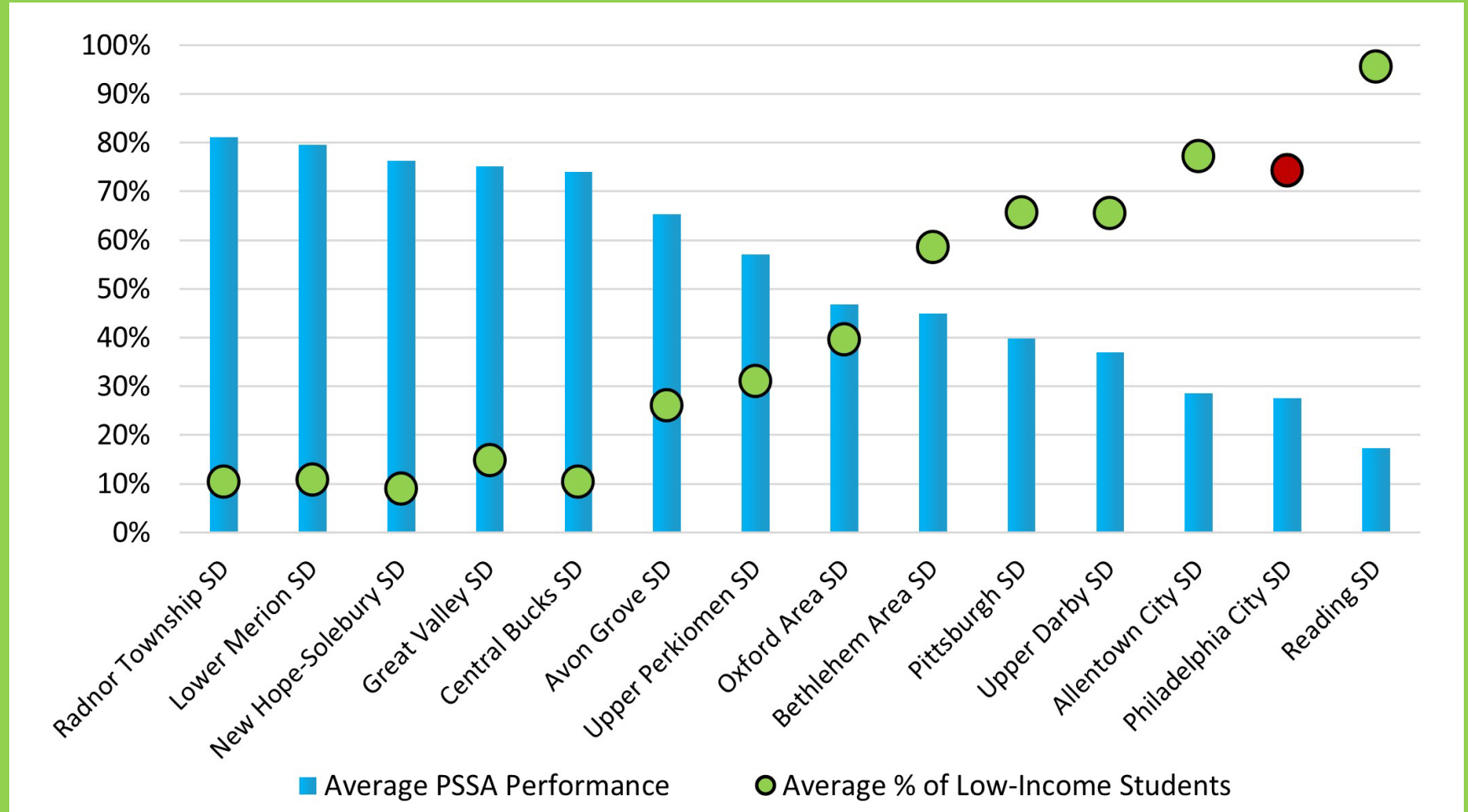
*Child Care Supply  
Reduced by 33%*



US Dept of Labor. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages. 2019 – 2021

# Extended School Closure Set Students Back

*Impact of Poverty Compounded Learning Loss*



PA Dept of Education. PSSA Results 2015 – 2019

PA Dept of Education. Percent Low Income Reports 2015 – 2020

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# Warning Signs that Early Reading Suffered

District benchmark reading assessments indicate that 2nd to 5th graders lost significant ground from Fall 2021 to Fall 2022 (*in that period the assessments changed for all grades*)

*See the report from the Office of Evaluation and Research" Within-Year Reading Assessment Participation and Performance for Students Grades K-12: A comparison of Fall 2020 and Fall 2021*

PSSA results released this fall will tell the full story

# Still Students Struggled to Overcome Virtual Learning Obstacles

**44% of PSD teachers reported students faced technology-related challenges to accessing remote instruction**

**Student participation in virtual classes started out at 79% in May 2020 and dropped to 42% four weeks later**

Pew Research Center report "As schools close due to the coronavirus, some U.S. students face a digital 'homework gap'." March 2022

# Still, Parents and Children Struggled

*When the pandemic happened, his teachers were not equipped for virtual instruction. How do we adjust for the gap? My son went a year and half without virtual instruction?*

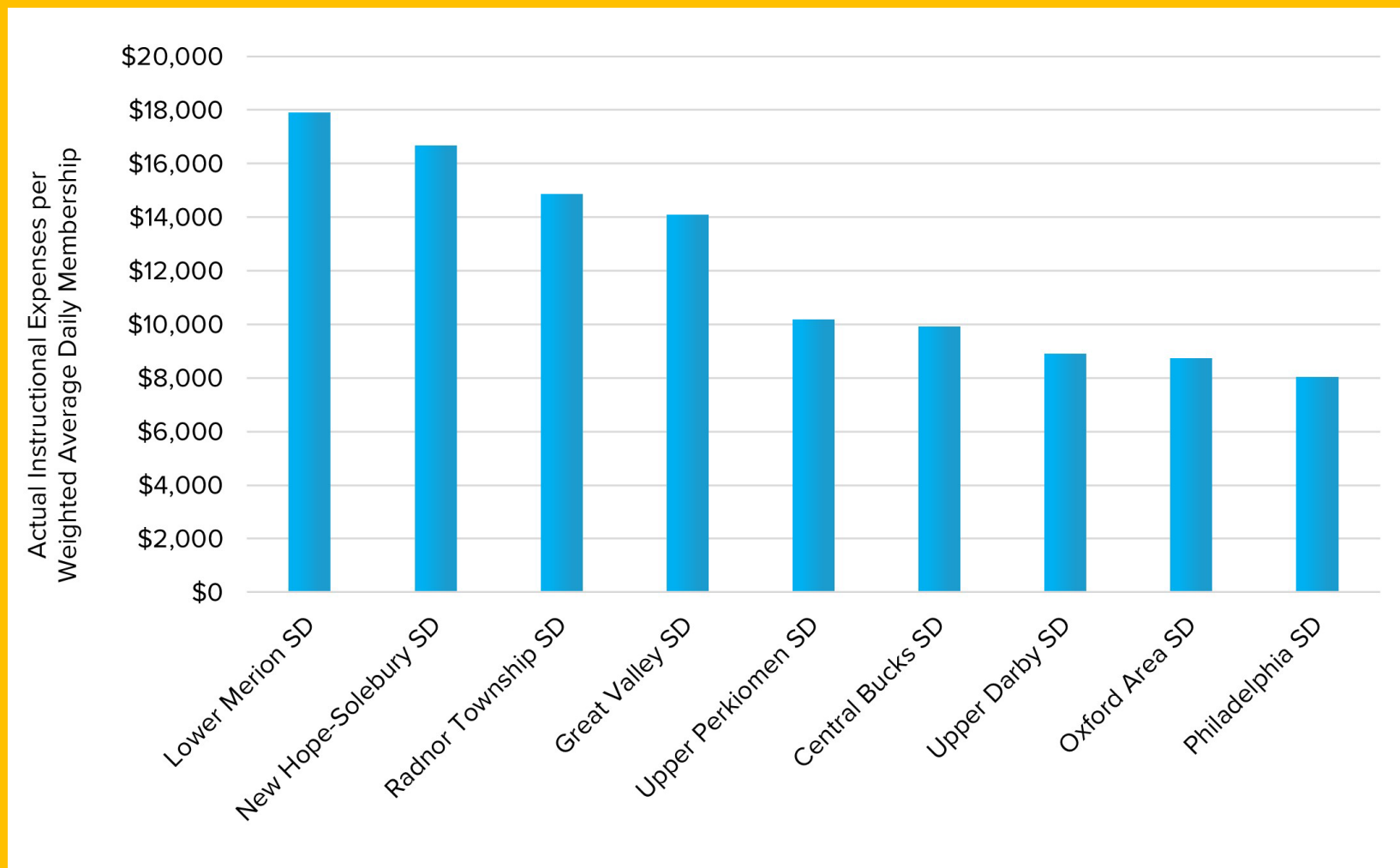
*I'm not a teacher by trade, so there was only so much I could do to support his learning at home.*

*- Sir-Jaz Car Watson, parent*



# Philadelphia Has Less \$ to Educate Students

*\$10,000 Per Student  
Gap In Instructional  
Resources*

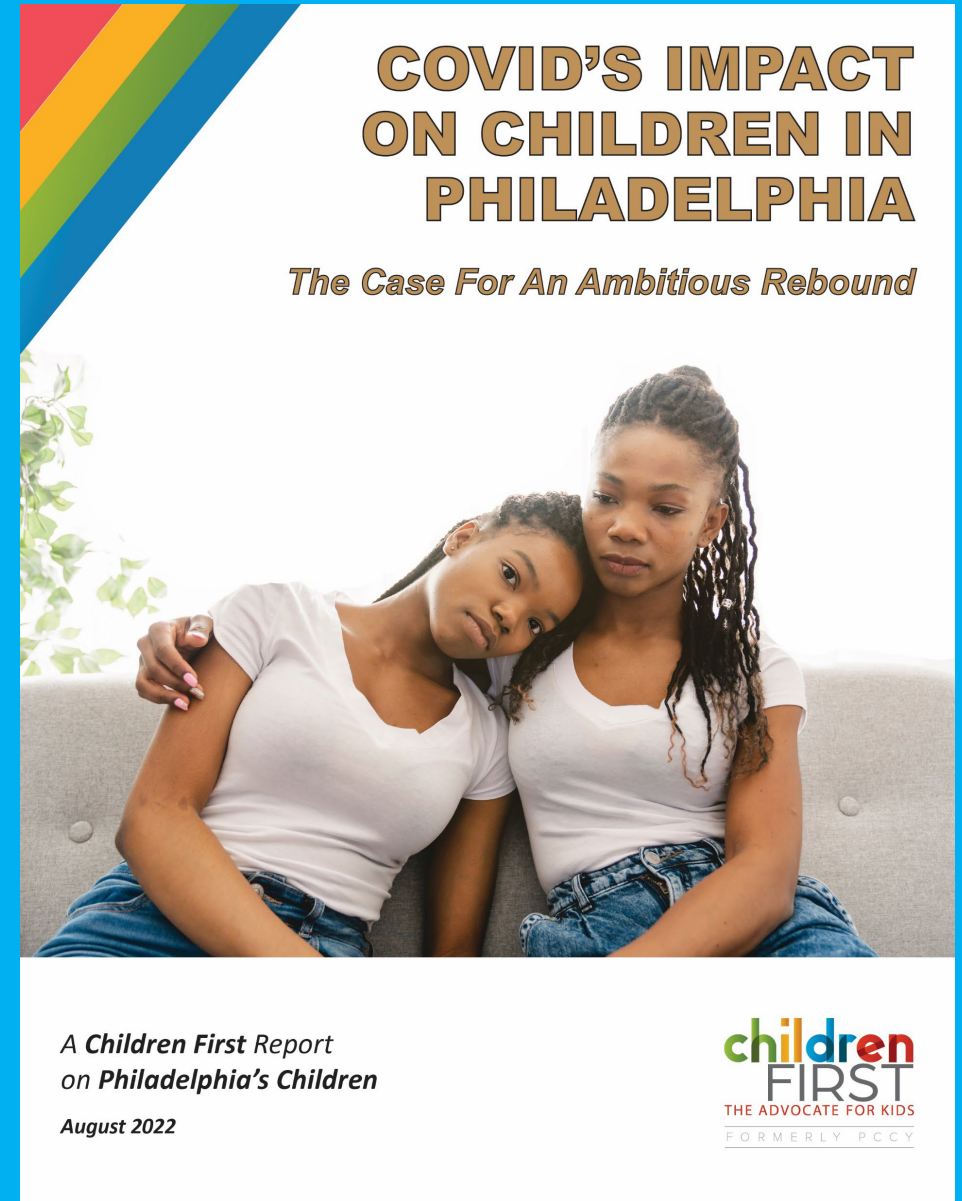


PA Dept of Education. Expenditure Data 2015 – 2019

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# Five Things To Do To Protect Children

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# 1. Put Children First in a Crisis

**City leadership needs to start preparing NOW for the next public health crisis.**

**The Philadelphia Office of Children and Families should:**

- **Document what efforts it undertook to protect children**
- **Create a manual of lessons learned**
- **Craft fresh new plans to address the equity challenges faced during the crisis**

## **2. Invest in Students So They Can Get Ahead**

**This year's state budget increase is a good step forward for the School District!**

**District received substantial federal relief**

**Concrete ambitious plans to help student catch up and excel are urgently needed.**

**The District is still underfunded by \$1 billion.**

**The state and the city must boost funding for public schools so that students catch up and excel.**

### **3. Close the Gap in Behavioral Health Services for Children and Youth**

**The City and State must do more to expand access to mental health services by making sure that Community Behavioral Health and private health care insurers are covering the full spectrum of mental health needs of children including:**

- prevention supports**
- mental health first aid**
- light touch counseling**
- intensive therapy**

## **4. Curb the Impact of Inflation on Families by making child care more affordable**

**Children are missing out on the important developmental supports provided by great child care.**

**Lawmakers in Washington and Harrisburg need to deliver more resources so that families can afford to enroll their children in high-quality, affordable child care and pre-k.**

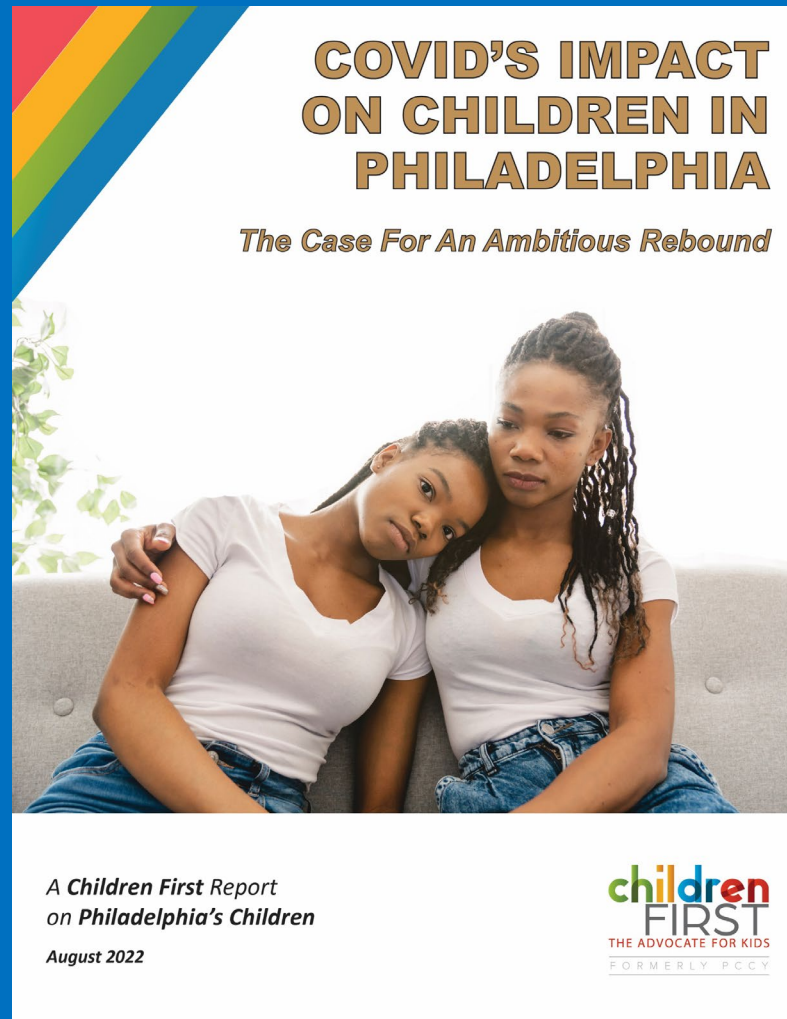
## 5. Protect Children from Poverty

**Before COVID struck, 7 in 10 Philadelphia families were earning too little to cover the costs of raising their children.**

**Philadelphians must push their federal lawmakers to:**

- Reenact the expanded Child Tax Credit**
- Continue the flexible enrollment policies in Medicaid, CHIP, and SNAP**

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[www.childrenfirstpa.org/covidsonphilly](http://www.childrenfirstpa.org/covidsonphilly)