The Outlook for Philly Kids - Post Pandemic

The Case for an Ambitious Rebound
Child Poverty Rate Dropped by 15%

US Census. SAIPE. 2019 – 2020

Over 16,000 fewer children living in poverty in 2020 than 2019

COVID’s Impact on Children in Philadelphia – August 2022
26,000 More Children Enrolled in Medicaid

Three in Four Children Enrolled in Medicaid Are Black or Hispanic

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

COVID’s Impact on Children in Philadelphia – August 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

COVID’s Impact on Children in Philadelphia – August 2022
The Big Take-Away...
The enactment of the expanded Child Tax Credit reduced child poverty dramatically

Good Public Policy Works
Federally permitted safety-net flexibility kept children fed and healthy

COVID’s Impact on Children in Philadelphia – August 2022
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


COVID’s Impact on Children in Philadelphia – August 2022
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
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

Philadelphia County: 46%
Pennsylvania: 34%

More than 400,000 Philadelphians Still At Risk

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

Unvaccinated Children & Adults By Race

- **Black**: 223,497
- **White**: 148,254
- **Hispanic**: 52,421
- **Asian**: 5,982


COVID’s Impact on Children in Philadelphia – August 2022
12,000 Fewer Children Enrolled in Child Care

Lost Opportunities for Children and Parents

OCDELF Data Request. 2020 – 2022

COVID’s Impact on Children in Philadelphia – August 2022
COVID’s Impact on Children in Philadelphia – August 2022

Child Care Staff Exodus Retail Wages 19% Premium


Child Care Supply Reduced by 33%
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

COVID’s Impact on Children in Philadelphia – August 2022
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.

COVID’s Impact on Children in Philadelphia – August 2022
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

COVID’s Impact on Children in Philadelphia – August 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

COVID’s Impact on Children in Philadelphia – August 2022
Five Things To Do To Protect Children
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
Download this report

www.childrenfirstpa.org/covidimpactonphilly