



children's
defense fund
minnesota



April 11, 2019

Minnesota KIDS COUNT 2018:

Building Community in a Time
of Changing Needs



Children's Defense Fund

Nonpartisan, nonprofit organization

- CDF does not seek nor accept government funds
- Minnesota is one of eight state and regional offices
- The Children's Defense Fund Leave No Child Behind® mission is to ensure every child a *Healthy Start*, a *Head Start*, a *Fair Start*, a *Safe Start* and a *Moral Start* in life and successful passage to adulthood with the help of caring families and communities.



Children's Defense Fund - Minnesota

Legislative Advocacy

- Early Childhood
- Health Care
- Child Care
- Child Well-Being
- Economic Security

Research & Education

- Issue research
- KIDS COUNT[®]

Outreach & Organizing

- Bridge to Benefits
- Voices & Choices Coalition



Youth Leadership

- Freedom Schools[®]
- Beat the Odds[®]

Examining Data by Race and Ethnicity

- U.S. Census Bureau and state agencies often use five racial categories in data collection:
 - American Indian
 - Asian
 - Black
 - Hispanic or Latino
 - White
 - Two or More Races



- Data with additional ethnic categories or nationalities is not often accessible
- More stratified data would help identify unique trends for subsets of these racial groups

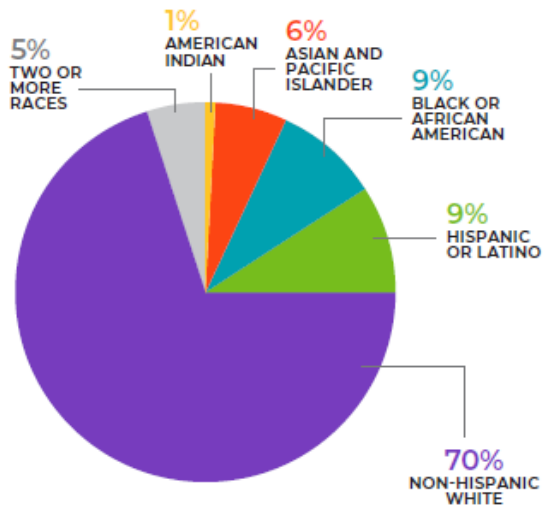


Examining Data by Race and Ethnicity

- Minnesota has historically been and continues to be a state with a White majority
- Structural racism has permeated policies and programs for decades, affecting outcomes for children of color and American Indian children
- Expanding the number of racial and ethnic groups in datasets would help us better understand subsets of populations

Children by Race and Ethnicity

PERCENTAGE OF MINNESOTA CHILDREN BY RACE AND ETHNICITY, 2016



Source: Population Division, U.S. Census Bureau.

Racial and ethnic diversity continues to grow in Minnesota, with 30% of children a person of color or American Indian child.

KIDS COUNT Ranks Minnesota Fourth

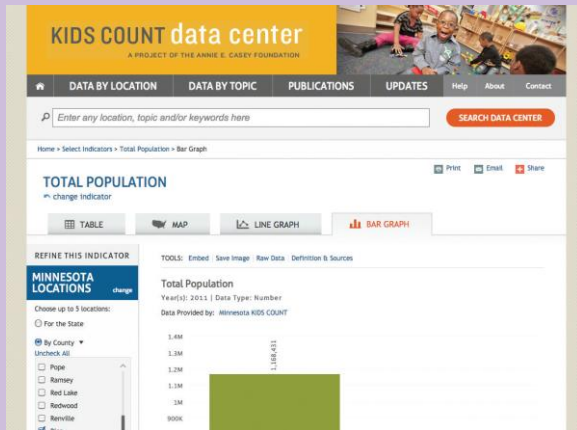
Annie E. Casey Foundation KIDS COUNT ranked Minnesota 4th overall in 2018

- 5th in Family and Community
- 11th in Education
- 5th in Economic Well-being
- 6th in Health



KIDS COUNT Data Center

Find state, county, city and congressional district data



- Create custom reports
- Compare and rank data for different geographies
- Design graphics, maps and trend lines

Census 2020

Undercounted individuals could cost the state millions of dollars in Federal allocations for many programs that benefit children and families

Children under age 5 are among the undercounted groups

KIDS COUNT relies on accurate Census data to measure child well-being

Some characteristics of hard-to-count areas and individuals that correlate with high non-response rates include:

- 1 CHILDREN UNDER 5
- 2 VACANT HOUSING UNITS
- 3 MULTI-FAMILY HOUSING
- 4 RENTER OCCUPIED HOUSING UNITS
- 5 OCCUPIED UNITS WITH MORE THAN 1.5 PEOPLE PER ROOM
- 6 ADULTS THAT ARE NOT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES
- 7 PEOPLE LIVING BELOW POVERTY LEVEL
- 8 HOUSEHOLDS RECEIVING PUBLIC ASSISTANCE
- 9 UNEMPLOYED
- 10 LINGUISTICALLY ISOLATED HOUSEHOLDS



What is Bridge to Benefits?

Multi-state project by CDF-MN to improve the well-being of families and individuals by linking them to public work support programs and tax credits

- Health Care Programs (Medical Assistance, MinnesotaCare and Advanced Premium Tax Credits)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- School Meal Program (free/reduced-priced school breakfast & lunch)
- Energy Assistance Program
- Child Care Assistance Program
- WIC Program
- Tax Credits (EITC and WFC)

Online eligibility screening tool at www.bridgetobenefits.org



Why Bridge to Benefits?

- **Improve economic well being of families to improve outcomes for kids**
- **Work support programs and tax credits were created to help low-income workers meet basic needs (work incentives)**
 - Target families making above 100% FPG
- **Address underutilization of programs**
 - Energy Assistance: 70% of eligible households are not enrolled
 - Health Care: 50% of uninsured Minnesotans are eligible but are not enrolled in MNCare or MA
 - Child Care Assistance: 82% of income eligible children are not enrolled
 - SNAP: 31% of eligible persons are not enrolled
 - School Lunch Program: 10% of eligible children are not enrolled
 - WIC: 27% of eligible families are not enrolled
 - EITC & WFC: 18% of eligible households are not claiming
- **Help overcome barriers to participation: lack of awareness, complex application process, literacy, language, transportation, stigma, etc.**



Minnesota KIDS COUNT 2018 Data Book

Four Components of Child Well-being

- Safe and Supportive Homes and Communities
- High-Quality Early Childhood and K-12 Education
- Economic Well-being
- Health Coverage and Care

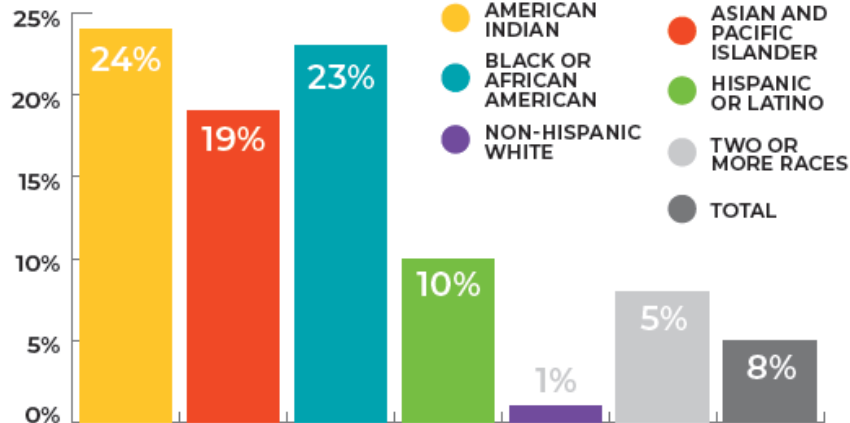


Safe and Supportive Homes and Communities

Safety is of critical importance to children's overall well-being, both in their families and in their neighborhoods and schools, to ensure that every child has positive health and educational outcomes.

Safe and Supportive Homes and Communities

CHILDREN LIVING IN AREAS OF CONCENTRATED POVERTY BY RACE AND ETHNICITY, 2012-16



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Note: Analysis done by Population Reference Bureau. Areas of concentrated poverty are census tracts where 30% or more of residents live in poverty.

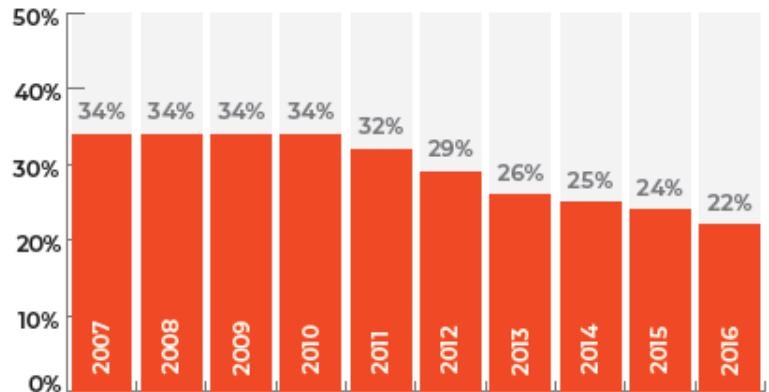
Neighborhoods with low rates of poverty provide increased access to resources and opportunities, resulting in easier development of community and improved child outcomes.

Safe and Supportive Homes and Communities

Families who spend more than 30% of their income on housing are considered unstably housed.

The rate in Minnesota has decreased since the recession but still more than one in five children live in a home with high housing cost burden.

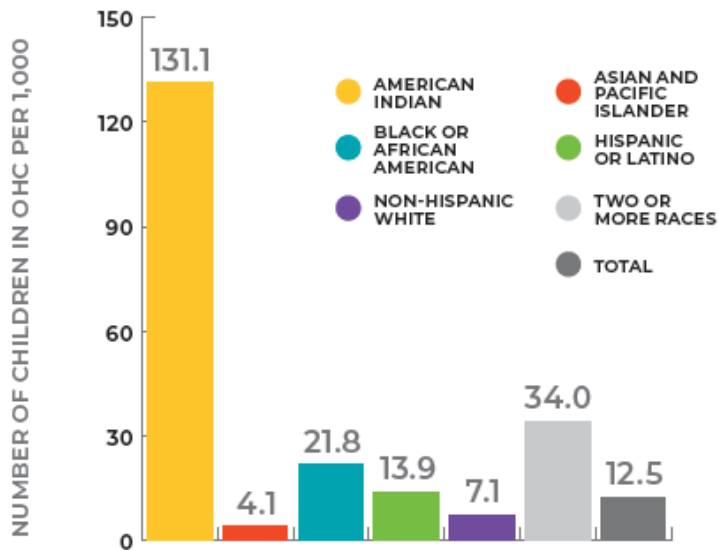
CHILDREN LIVING IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH A HIGH HOUSING COST BURDEN, 2007-16



Source: U.S. Census Bureau. Note: Analysis done by Population Reference Bureau. A high housing cost burden is defined as rent or mortgage costs being more than 30 percent of household income.

Safe and Supportive Homes and Communities

OUT-OF-HOME CARE (OHC) RATE BY RACE AND ETHNICITY, 2017



Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services, Child Safety and Permanency Division. Personal Contact with Jon Pedersen.

Widespread disparities persist in Minnesota for Black children, American Indian children and children of Two or More Races in the child welfare system and out-of-home care.

The Legislative Task Force on Child Protection continues to monitor the Minnesota child welfare system.

High-Quality Early Childhood and K-12 Education

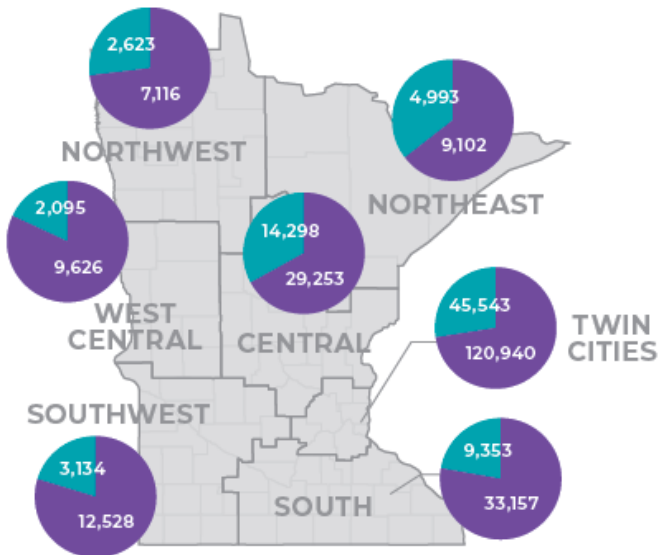
Schools can serve as a community hub for children and parents to learn, build relationships, and receive support.



High-Quality Early Childhood and K-12 Education

MINNESOTA CHILD CARE DESERTS, 2016

● CURRENT LICENSED CAPACITY ● SHORTFALL IN NUMBER OF LICENSED CHILD CARE SPACES NEEDED



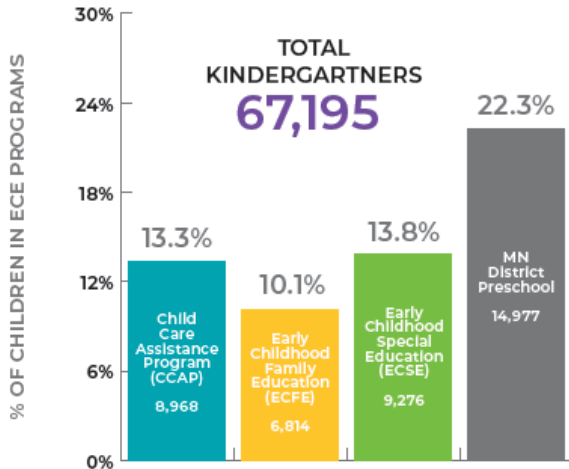
Source: MN Dept. of Human Services; U.S. Census Bureau.

Every region in the state is experiencing a shortage of child care, particularly infant care.



High-Quality Early Childhood and K-12 Education

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM PARTICIPATION PRIOR TO KINDERGARTEN ENTRY FOR KINDERGARTNERS ENROLLING IN 2017



Source: Minnesota Early Childhood Longitudinal Data System, ecelds.mn.gov.
Note: Data includes participation in each program at any point prior to kindergarten entry. District programs, including District Preschool, ECSE and ECFE only include participation four years prior to kindergarten entry.

Access to high-quality early childhood education continues to be hindered by the high cost and limited funds available to provide financial assistance.

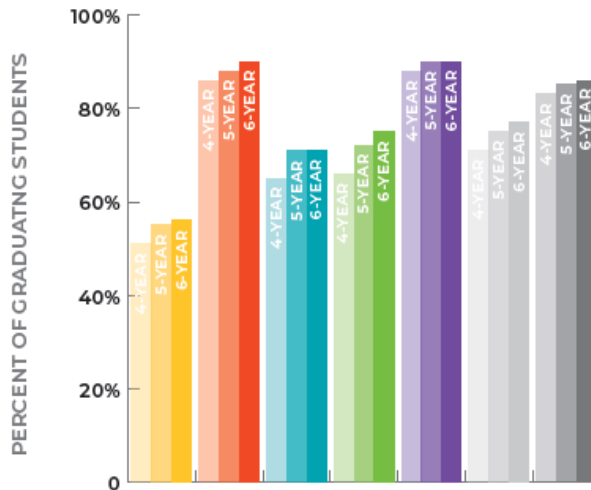
We have 43 early childhood programs in our state, according to the OLA report.

The ECLDS online tool allows us to look at access to programs across agencies prior to Kindergarten entry.

High-Quality Early Childhood and K-12 Education

Graduation rates for American Indian, Black and Latino youth continue to lag behind their peers, though outcomes improve when looking at 5- and 6-year rates.

GRADUATION RATES BY RACE AND ETHNICITY, 2016-17



Source: MN Department of Education Data Center.



E-12 Education Indicators

Fourth Graders Not Proficient in Reading

2009: 63% 2017: 61%

Eighth Graders Not Proficient in Math

2009: 53% 2017: 54%

High School Students Not Graduating on Time

2010-11: 23% 2015-16: 18%

Young Children Not in School (ages 3 and 4)

2009-11: 54% 2014-15: 55%

Economic Well-being

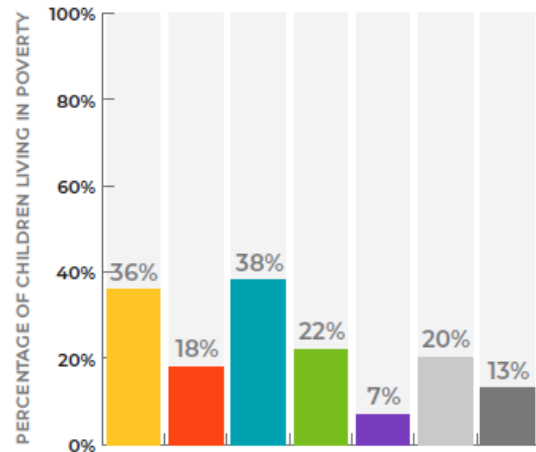
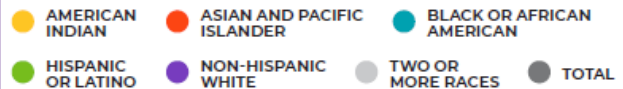
Health, education, and well-being outcomes for children improve when their family is economically stable. Even an extra \$1,000 per year for families to spend on basic needs can make a major impact on children's well-being.



Economic Well-being

Disparities persist for American Indian and Black children and overall more than one in ten children in Minnesota are living in poverty.

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN LIVING IN POVERTY BY RACE AND ETHNICITY, 2016



Source: Population Reference Bureau, analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2016.



Economic Well-being

MINIMUM WAGE, 2018 AND 2019

	2018	2019*
FEDERAL	\$7.25	\$7.25
STATE		
Large Employers	\$9.65	\$9.86
Small Employers	\$7.87	\$8.04
MINNEAPOLIS		
Large Employers	\$11.25	\$12.25
Small Employers	\$10.25	\$11.00

* Statewide, as of January 1; Minneapolis, as of July 1

Increases to the minimum wage will benefit families, but still not catch up to a living wage that enables working families to achieve economic stability.

Work support programs such as SNAP and Medicaid fill the gap between lower wages and basic needs and provide economic boost to communities.

STATEWIDE LIVING WAGE FOR TWO EARNERS WITH TWO CHILDREN, 2018

\$21.23 HOURLY **\$88,296** ANNUALLY

Source: <http://mn.gov/deed/data/data-tools>.

Health Coverage and Care

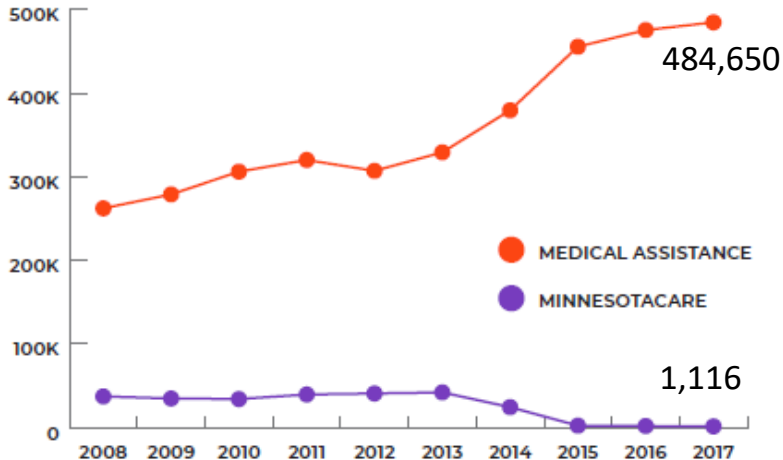
When children have access to affordable preventive health care, the whole community benefits from improved health, lower rates of uncompensated care, and more productive citizens.





Health Coverage and Care

AVERAGE MONTHLY ENROLLMENT OF CHILDREN IN MINNESOTA HEALTH CARE PROGRAMS, 2008-17



Source: MN Department of Human Services, Personal Contact with Ray Kurth-Nelson.

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2013 changed eligibility requirements for Medical Assistance (MA), enabling many who formerly were enrolled in MinnesotaCare to become eligible for MA.

Since the ACA, the number of uninsured children has declined by 60%.

Health Coverage and Care

Nearly two-thirds of children enrolled in the Minnesota Health Care Program did not receive dental care in 2017.

CHILDREN ENROLLED IN MINNESOTA HEALTH CARE PROGRAM (MA OR MNCARE) WHO SAW A DENTIST, AS % OF CHILDREN ENROLLED IN MHCP

36.5%
238,595
CHILDREN

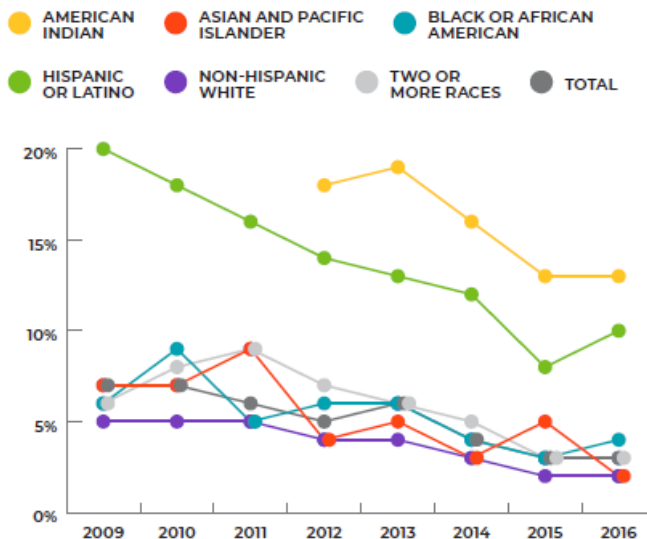


Source: Minnesota Department of Human Services, Children's Oral Health Data.

Health Coverage and Care

Though uninsured rates have fallen among all children by race/ethnicity, Latino and American Indian children continue to be less likely to be covered by health insurance in Minnesota.

PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE BY RACE AND ETHNICITY, 2009-16



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey. Note Analysis done by Population Reference Bureau. Data for American Indian Children was not available from 2009-2011.



Legislative Update: Child Care Assistance Program

- **Kids Can't Wait Coalition** advocates for affordable, accessible child care, primarily through investments in and improvements to the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
- KCW advocates for fully funding and forecasting CCAP so eligible families can participate, increasing provider reimbursement rates and implementing family-friendly program improvements to align with federal regulations



Legislative Update: Child Care Assistance Program

- **Governor's Budget:**

- Increased funding to take 1,000 families off the CCAP wait list
- All family-friendly federal Child Care Development Block Grant conformity provisions
- Updates provider rates to be calculated at the 2018 market rate survey at the 25th percentile (their original budget had rates increasing with every new market rate survey, but they took this out after the OLA report)
- Several program integrity provisions, including increased licensors and inspectors to new provider regulations like requiring legible attendance records for billing



Policy Recommendations

Fully fund and forecast Child Care Assistance Program

Invest in the Community Solutions Fund for Healthy Child Development Grant Program.

Create a statewide Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance program.

Fund Outreach efforts for Minnesota's response to the 2020 Census



Policy Recommendations

Increase the Minnesota Family Investment Program cash grant

Expand reach of School-Linked Mental Health Programs

Expand the Working Family Credit

Create a state Child Tax Credit



What Can We Do to Improve Outcomes for Children and Families?

- Use Bridge to Benefits to connect families to work support programs and tax credits
- Support policies and programs for family economic stability and access to health coverage and care (including mental health care and pregnancy and violence prevention) by framing these policies around academic success.
- Increase school-based basic needs support such as food shelves, free breakfast and snacks, food in backpacks, and school-based clinics.
- When a child is falling behind, missing school or misbehaving consider the whole child, family, and environment to plan interventions and make referrals to services inside and outside of school.

Questions?

