

Children's Defense Fund

Children's Rights

<https://www.childrensdefense.org/2021/national-child-advocacy-organization-sounds-alarm-for-americas-children-in-crisis/>

Public Facing Advocacy Writing

Comprehensive report from the Childrens Defense Fund shows that even before the COVID-19 pandemic, children were the poorest age group in America, with children of color and young children struggling most

WASHINGTON, DC Today the Childrens Defense Fund (CDF) released their annual *State of Americas Children* report that captures the dire conditions many young people, particularly children of color, are facing. The 86-page report offers a comprehensive overview of the well-being of Americas children to inform discussions around policy and legislative prescriptions to support the advancement of children across the country. The report also shows that Black and Brown children have been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, driving more of them deeper into poverty.

When it comes to the harm caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, children are not immune. Children are being impacted at every level: physically, economically, academically, socially, and psychologically. As we consider child well-being in this country, this years *State of Americas Children* report gives special attention to the various impacts of the pandemic. All 73 million of our children have been impacted by the sense of uncertainty and disruption of routine COVID-19 has caused, with our Black youth especially vulnerable to 2020s converging crises, said **CDF President and CEO Rev. Dr. Starsky Wilson**. A year marked by such dramatic change and drastic negative impact on childrens lives must be followed by one of healing and restoration with intentional disciplined reflection, radical imagination, and bold action.

The *State of Americas Children 2021* report comes at a critical time, as the nations children continue to struggle through the pandemic and economic downturn of the last year. The report offers the clearest evidence to support the inclusion of robust, targeted assistance for Americas children in the American Rescue Plan Act passed earlier this month, which builds on prior efforts to provide relief for children and families, works to address the economic and racial injustices COVID-19 has exacerbated, and takes a long-overdue step toward ending our nations shameful child poverty crisis by *cutting child poverty in half*. It extends key supports that have been helping families impacted by the crisis for the past year, like housing and nutrition assistance, includes long-awaited investments in child care and education that will finally help get children back in schools and parents back to work, and means millions of parents will receive a new per-child allowance.

These legislative priorities championed by CDF are vital for the millions of children struggling to survive under conditions that have been laid bare during the coronavirus crisis, and the report makes clear that critical investments must be extended, strengthened, and made permanent to achieve CDFs vision of a nation where marginalized children flourish, leaders prioritize their well-being, and communities wield the power to ensure they thrive.

Key findings include:

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The Childrens Defense Fund (CDF) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit child advocacy organization that has worked relentlessly for more than 40 years to ensure a level playing field for all children. We champion [policies](#) and [programs](#) that lift children out of poverty; protect them from abuse and neglect; and ensure their access to health care, quality education and a moral and spiritual foundation. Supported by foundation and corporate grants and individual donations, CDF advocates nationwide on behalf of children to ensure children are always a priority.

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