

# Children BY THE Numbers

## WHAT THE DATA SHOWS...



### Changing Demographics

Westchester's population under 18 has become more racially and ethnically diverse. In the public school system, there is a rise in the number of Asian, Hispanic, and Multiracial students. Learn more on page 2.



### Youth Justice

Rate of arrests among children ages 16-17 has declined in Westchester, but more has to be done to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline by decreasing punitive measures and increasing the use of community-based alternatives. Learn more on page 6.



### Racial Disparity

Despite overall signs of improvement, racial disparities across data indicators still remains prominent in Westchester, with education continuing to show great inequity. Learn more on page 3.



### Homelessness

Children and youth are experiencing homelessness all across Westchester, yet many are not being counted or receiving needed support services. Learn more on page 5.



### Cost of Living

Cost of living in Westchester is high – especially for single parent households. Both rent and childcare take crippling portions of single parent incomes. Learn more on page 4.



### Early Childhood

Access to supports in the early years matters in order to maximize social, emotional, physical, and cognitive development. Adequate availability and timely delivery of services is crucial for children who need it. This is not happening in Westchester. Learn more on page 7.

## OVERVIEW

Total Westchester children and youth, ages 0-24

**307,219**

Children and young adults comprise **31%** of the TOTAL POPULATION OF WESTCHESTER COUNTY



U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table DP05; using American FactFinder.

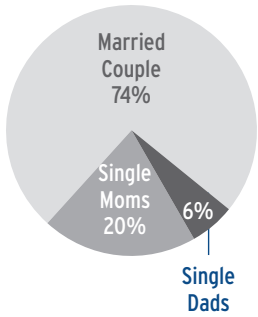
**25%** of Westchester's children are considered poor or low income.

**52%** of Westchester's children living in single parent families are either poor or low income.

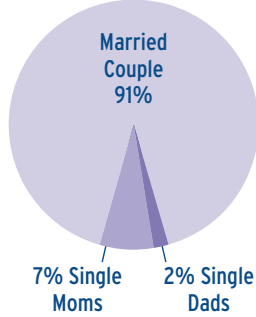
U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Tables B17024 & B0510 using American FactFinder.

Percentage of Children by Household Types

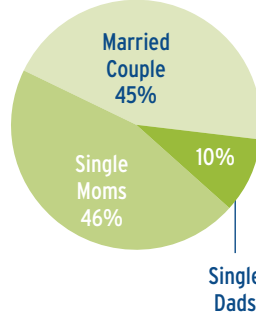
All Children/All Households



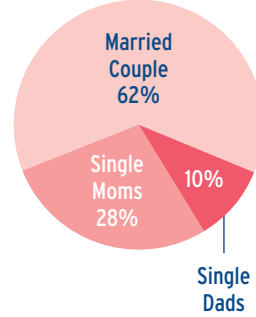
Asian Children



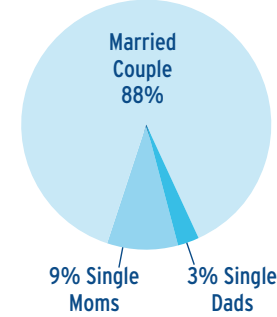
Black Children



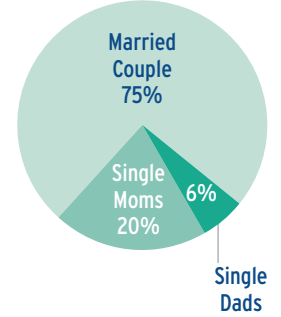
Hispanic Children



White Children



Multiracial Children



WHAT THE DATA SHOWS...

More Black and Hispanic family households are led by a single parent compared to other ethnic groups.

U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S0901; using American FactFinder. Percentages are calculated from this data. The category "White" is defined as "White, non-Hispanic" unless specified otherwise.

Other Living Arrangements

Grandparents Caring for Children



An estimated 4,832 children live with grandparents who are primarily responsible for their care.

**44.3%** of them rely on public assistance.

U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S1001; using American FactFinder.

Children in Foster Care

The number of children in foster care has decreased steadily over the years.



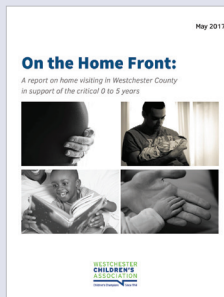
New York State Office of Children and Family Services, 2018 Monitoring and Analysis Profiles With Selected Trend Data: 2014-2018, <https://ocfs.ny.gov/main/reports/maps/counties/Westchester.pdf>

ADVOCACY & ACTION

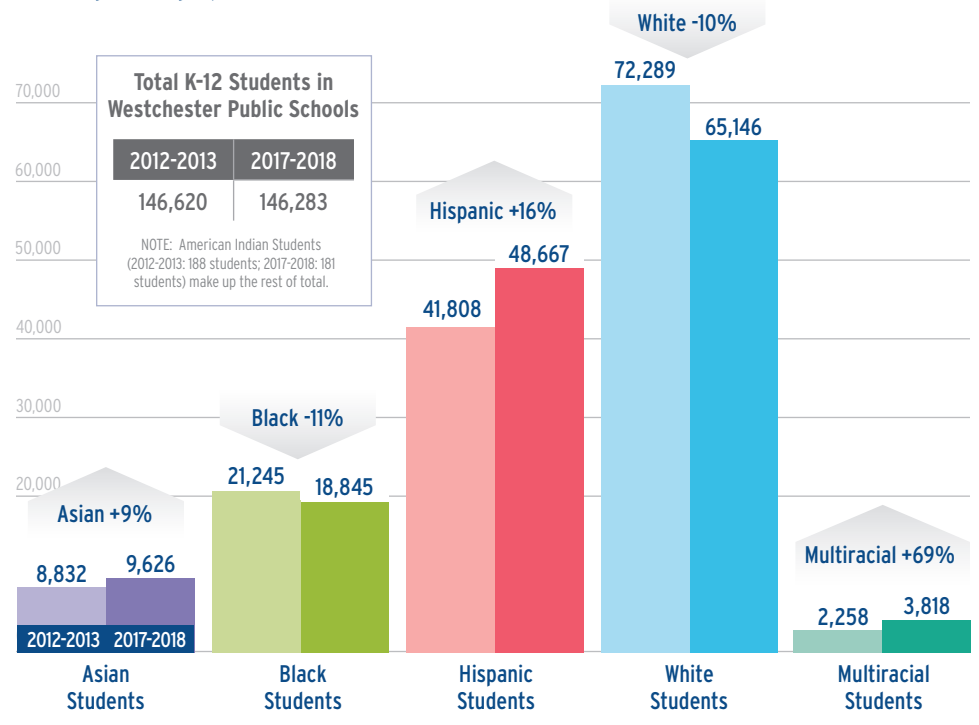


In our 2017 report about early childhood services and systems in Westchester entitled "On the Home Front," WCA recommended that more supports be provided for underserved client groups such as African Americans, undocumented families, and LGBT+ families.

Read this and our other in-depth reports at <https://wca4kids.org/publications/in-depth-reports/>



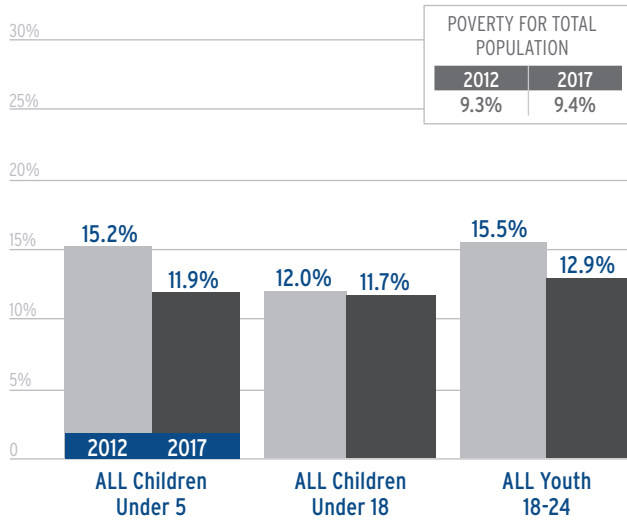
Shifting Demographics in Public Schools (K-12)



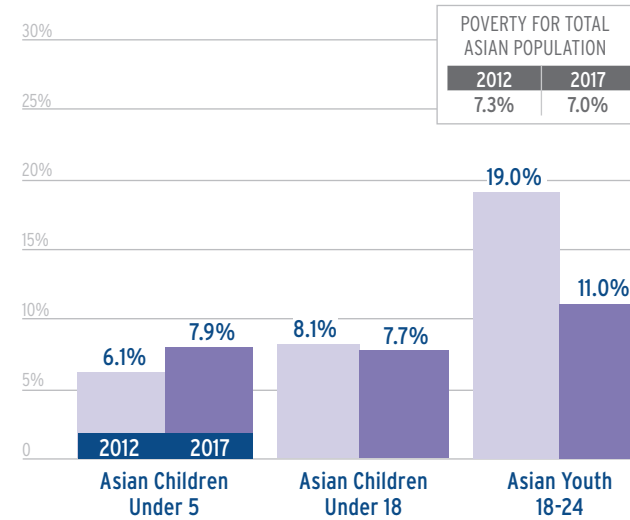
New York Department of Education, 2012-13 & 2017-18 Enrollment Data for Westchester County, <https://data.nysed.gov/>

# POVERTY RATES BY RACE/ETHNICITY FROM 2012-2017

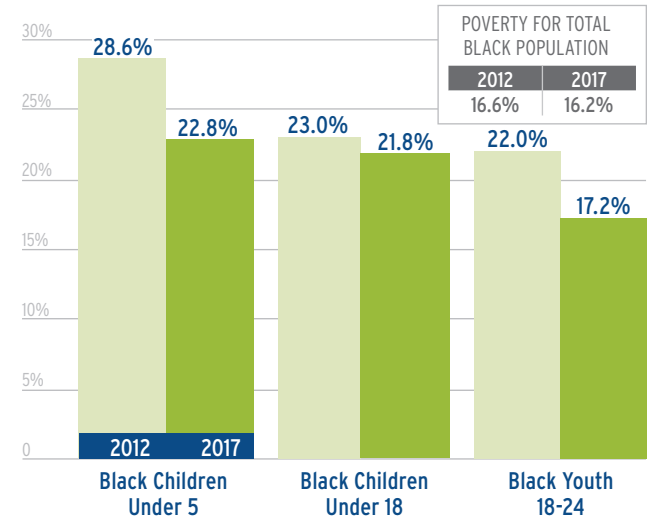
## Poverty Rates – ALL Races Children & Youth



## Poverty Rates – Asian Children & Youth



## Poverty Rates – Black Children & Youth



### WHAT THE DATA SHOWS...

#### GOOD NEWS!

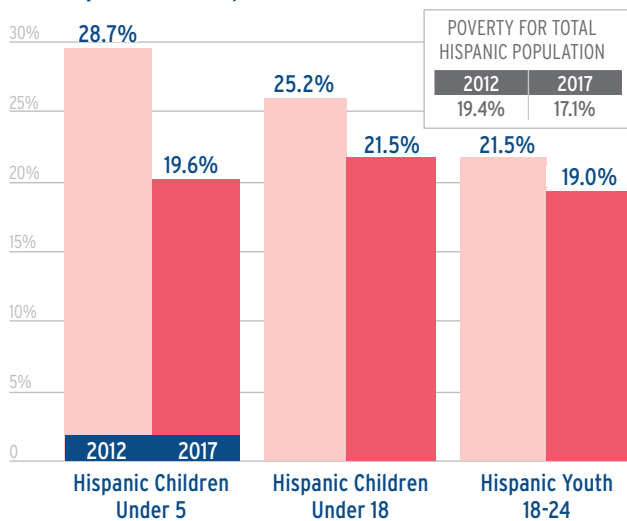
Poverty rates decreased for children under 5 and youth ages 18-24.

Black and Hispanic children, especially those under age 5, have experienced the greatest decreases in poverty rates.

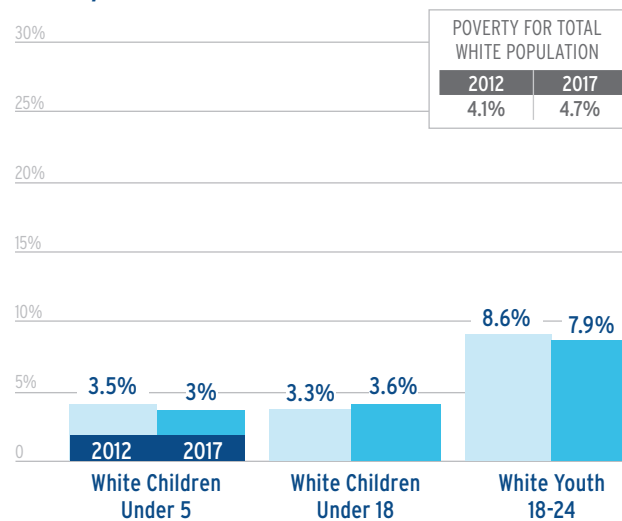
#### HOWEVER:

Despite these declines, Black and Hispanic children continue to experience poverty at a higher rate than other children of different races.

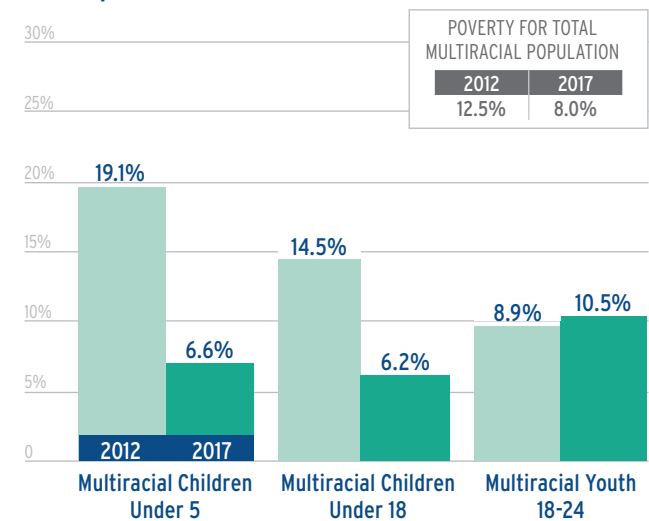
## Poverty Rates – Hispanic Children & Youth



## Poverty Rates – White Children & Youth

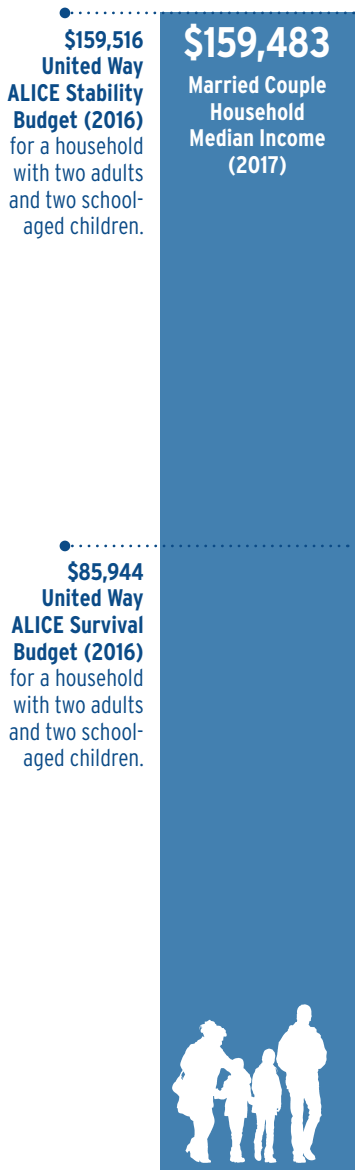


## Poverty Rates – Multiracial Children & Youth



U.S. Census Bureau; American Community Survey, 2012 & 2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table DP05; using American FactFinder.

Income Levels for Married Couples vs. Single Parents



**WHAT THE DATA SHOWS...**

Married couples fare well, while single parents struggle.

A single mother only makes a little more than a third of what it takes to reach the economic stability, while a single father makes half of what it takes to reach that same level.

The gap between the median incomes of single parents with children under 18 and the budget required for economic stability in Westchester is significant.

**KEEP IN MIND... 26% of Westchester's children live in single parent households.**

**\$92,586**  
United Way ALICE Stability Budget (2016) for a household with one adult and one school-aged child.

**\$53,580**  
United Way ALICE Survival Budget (2016) for a household with one adult and one school-aged child.

DEFINITIONS: **The Household Survival Budget** - calculates the minimum costs of basic necessities (housing, child care, food, health care, transportation, and smartphone). **The Household Stability Budget** calculates costs at a more sustainable level, and accounts for savings.

U.S. Census Bureau: American Community Survey, 2017 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, Table S0901; using American FactFinder. United Way ALICE Survival and Stability Budgets (2016), "State and County Budgets", <https://www.unitedforallice.org/new-york>

Cost Burden of Child Care for Married Couples vs. Single Parents

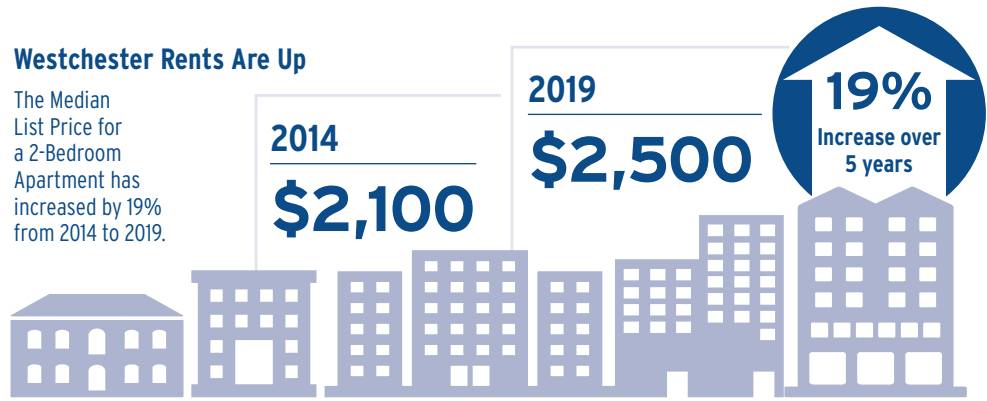
The US Department of Health & Human Services says child care should take no more than 7% of a family's income. Childcare takes much more of that in Westchester. Single parent households particularly feel the pinch. Child care can cost as much as 55.5% of a single mother's income.

Type of Child Care	Average Monthly Cost	Single Mothers Percent of Income (\$38,585)	Single Fathers Percent of Income (\$49,277)	Married Couples Percent of Income (\$159,483)
Infant	\$1,786	55.5%	43.5%	13.4%
Toddler	\$1,606	49.9%	39.1%	12.1%
Preschool	\$1,388	43.2%	33.8%	10.4%

Childcare Council of Westchester, Department of Health & Human Services, Federal Register, Vol. 80, No. 247, December 24, 2015, page 4.

Westchester Rents Are Up

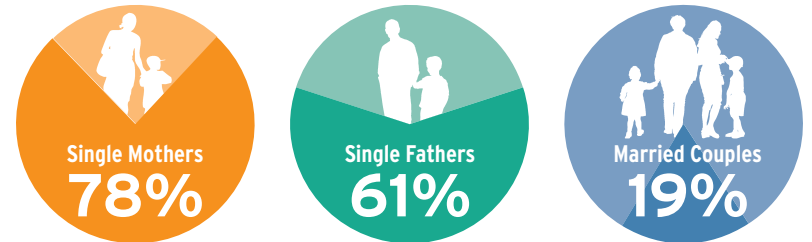
The Median List Price for a 2-Bedroom Apartment has increased by 19% from 2014 to 2019.



Zillow Research Data, Rental Listings, Median Rent List Price, 2-Bedroom in Westchester, August 2014 & August 2019 <https://www.zillow.com/research/data/>

How Big Is the Rent Bite?

Percentage of income that goes to renting a two-bedroom apartment for...



Percentages based on Median Family Household Incomes from the U.S. Census Bureau and Median List Price for 2-Bedrooms from Zillow Research Data

## Different ways of defining homelessness prevent children from getting services



### U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Point-In-Time Count

- Is conducted once a year on a single night in January
- Includes only people living in shelters, temporary housing, or on the streets
- Does not include families who are "doubled up," overcrowded or couch-surfing

Westchester County Department of Social Services uses this LOWER count (739 in 2018) to budget and plan for homelessness services.



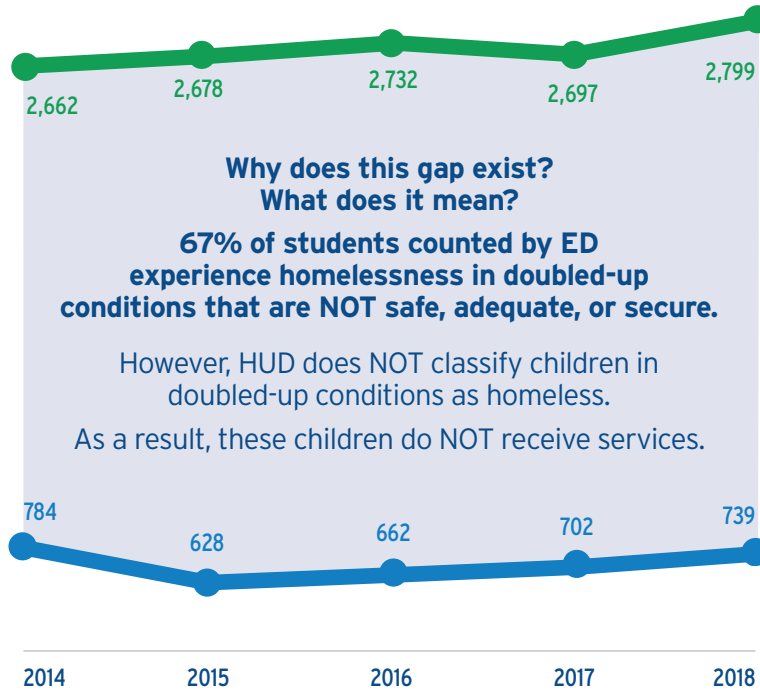
### U.S. Department of Education (ED) Count

- Counts students who self-identify as homeless at enrollment and throughout the year.
- Includes "doubled-up" children (e.g., sharing space with others) as well as children living in shelters, temporary, housing, or on the streets.

Even though this classifies more children as homeless, there is evidence that this is an undercount.

- Understaffing, lack of training and inadequate screening procedures implies that not all students experiencing homelessness are being captured.
- Students and families do not always identify themselves as homeless to avoid being stigmatized.

Number of Homeless in Westchester, HUD v. ED (2014-2018)



### Why does this gap exist? What does it mean?

**67% of students counted by ED experience homelessness in doubled-up conditions that are NOT safe, adequate, or secure.**

However, HUD does NOT classify children in doubled-up conditions as homeless. As a result, these children do NOT receive services.



**"My sons didn't fully understand what was going on during our homeless experience but they felt its effects. They fell through the cracks, faced social issues that required therapy, and their school performance suffered. I faced a lot of anxiety because I couldn't provide for my family, and we faced many issues that made it hard to raise my children."**

**- Shauna, Formerly Homeless Parent**

### ADVOCACY & ACTION



In 2018, at least 2,799 Westchester children and youth grades pre-K to 12 experienced homelessness. Our report suggests that the actual number of children experiencing homelessness is higher. Children who experience homelessness are:

- 4 times more likely to have delayed development;
- 2 times more likely to have learning disabilities;
- 2 times more likely to be chronically absent;
- 87% more likely to drop out than their peers.

Find out more information (including data sources) from "Making the Invisible Visible: Westchester's Hidden Homeless Children & Youth" at <https://wca4kids.org/issues/childhomelessness/>

### Making the Invisible Visible

Westchester's Hidden Homeless Children & Youth



WESTCHESTER CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. (2018). HUD 2018 Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs Homeless Populations and Subpopulations. Retrieved May, 2019, from [https://files.hudexchange.info/reports/published/CoC\\_PopSub\\_CoC\\_NY-604-2018\\_NY\\_2018.pdf](https://files.hudexchange.info/reports/published/CoC_PopSub_CoC_NY-604-2018_NY_2018.pdf) Schoolhouse Connection. (2019). Student Homelessness: Lessons from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). Retrieved June, 2019, from <https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/student-homelessness-lessons-from-the-youth-risk-behavior-survey-yrbs>

“So here’s what we know. We know that out-of-school suspension is not good... It’s not necessarily something that one would even think could be used to correct behavior... You have parents who come to you and say I don’t know what to do. It’s heartbreaking.”

- Dr. Joseph Ricca, Superintendent of White Plains School District, GPS Listening Session

Decreasing punitive measures in both schools and the criminal justice system is vital to reducing the school-to-prison pipeline. WCA is working to address these issues and pass key laws to decrease out-of-school suspensions and increase restorative practices.



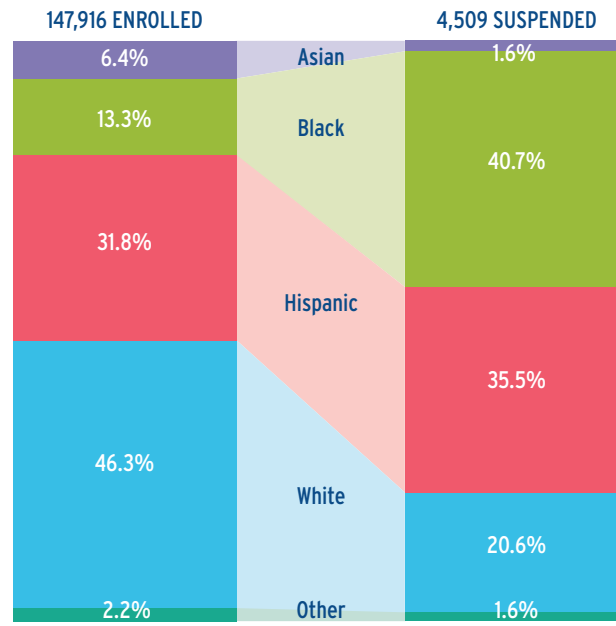
**14%**  
of Westchester’s public school students are chronically absent

Contributing factors to chronic absence include:

- Bullying
- Unstable housing
- Unsafe neighborhoods
- Chronic health conditions (e.g., asthma)
- Lack of social and educational support services

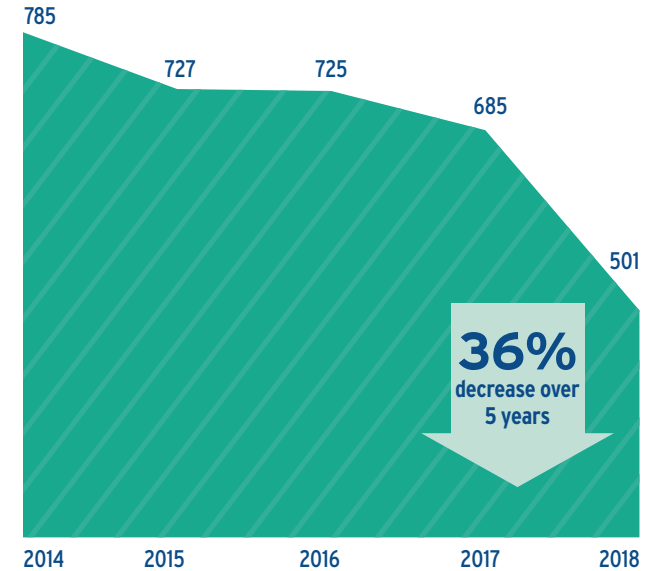
U.S. Department of Education, 2015-16 Civil Rights Data Collection, <https://ocrdata.ed.gov> and Chronic Absenteeism: An Old Problem in Search Of New Answers, Brian Jacob-Kelly Lovett (July 27, 2017) <https://www.brookings.edu/research/chronic-absenteeism-an-old-problem-in-search-of-new-answers/>

**Suspensions by Race (2015-2016 School Year)**



U.S. Department of Education, 2013-14, 2015-16 Civil Rights Data Collection, <https://ocrdata.ed.gov>

**Westchester Arrests Among 16-17 Year Olds (2014-2018)**



New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, <https://www.criminaljustice.ny.gov/crimnet/ojsa/youth-arrests/westchester.pdf>

**WHAT THE DATA SHOWS...**

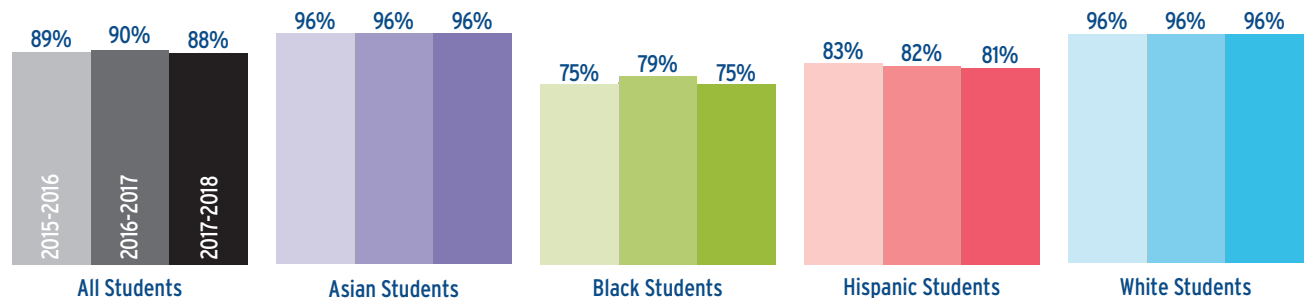
Black and Hispanic students continue to be suspended at higher rates and trail their peers in graduation rates.

**GOOD NEWS!**

The number of arrests of 16-17 year olds has declined over time. Since 2012, WCA has advocated for a more age-appropriate and rehabilitative approach to the juvenile justice process.

**High School Graduation Rate by Race (2015-2018)**

The graduation rate of Black and Hispanic students is lower than other races. NOTE: Chart shows 4 years/August graduation.



New York Department of Education, High School Graduation Rate, <https://data.nysed.gov>

To get district-level suspension, graduation, and chronic absenteeism rates, check out our Community Snapshots at <https://wca4kids.org/our-work/interactive-data/>

## WHAT THE DATA SHOWS...

### Families Are Not Receiving Enough Home Visiting Services

There is long-standing evidence that home visiting generates positive outcomes, such as healthier pregnancies, fewer child welfare referrals and academic improvements, by providing families with in-home parenting supports.

Although 5 of 6 NYS home visiting programs are offered in Westchester, eligible families do not receive the help they need due to insufficient capacity of these programs.<sup>2,3</sup>

### Early Intervention Services Are Delayed in Westchester

Early Intervention can diagnose and address developmental challenges in a child's early years before starting preschool. However, the County is not delivering these services in a timely manner.

### The Number of Preschoolers Receiving Disability Services is on the Rise

More research is needed to determine whether the 13% increase is due to delays in early diagnosis, increased awareness and/or increased demand for disability services.

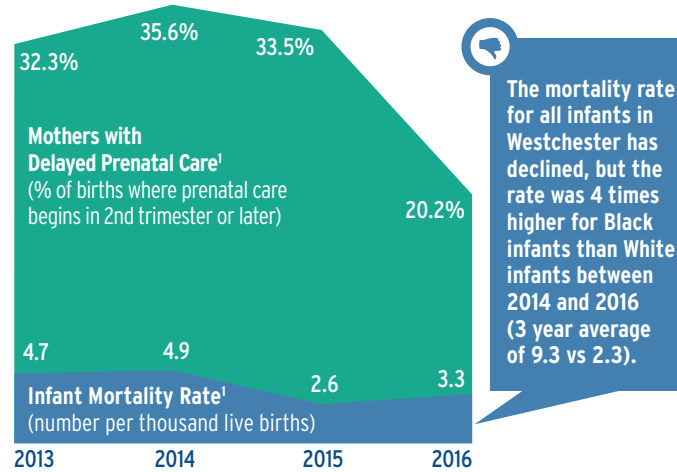
[1] James J. Heckman & Margaret L. Holland & Kevin K. Makino & Rodrigo Pinto & Maria Rosales-Rueda, 2017. "An Analysis of the Memphis Nurse-Family Partnership Program," NBER Working Papers 23610, National Bureau of Economic Research, Inc.

[2] Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy, 2016. "Home is Where the Start Is." <http://scaany.org/policyareas/maternal-infant-and-early-childhood>

[3] Westchester Children's Association, 2017. "On the Home Front: A report on home visiting in Westchester County in support of the critical 0 to 5 years." <https://wca4kids.org/infographics/home-front-report-home-visiting-westchester/>

## Delayed Prenatal Care & Infant Mortality

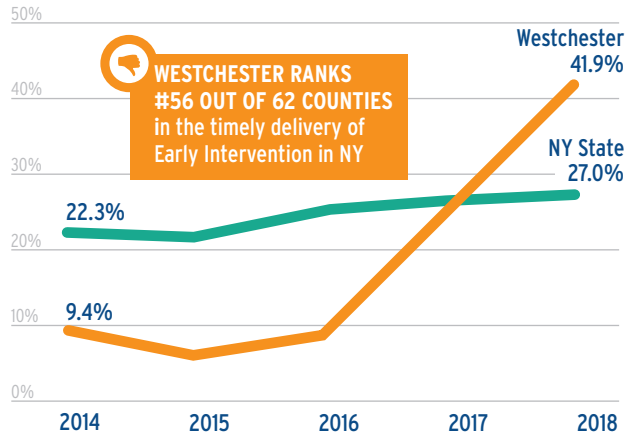
The percentage of mothers receiving delayed prenatal care declined by 37% from 2013 to 2016.



New York State Department of Health. [1] New York State Community Health Indicator Reports, Maternal & Health Indicators. "Percentage of births with early (1st trimester) prenatal care" & "Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births -Infant (<1 year)" Single Year Estimates. [2] Westchester County Health Indicators by Race/Ethnicity, 2014-2016

## Percent of Westchester County Children Receiving Delayed Early Intervention Services

In 2018, 752 children qualified for Early Intervention services in Westchester.



New York State Department of Health, Division of Family Health, Bureau of Early Intervention, "Annual Performance Reports for the NYS Early Intervention Program Indicator 1 - Service Timeliness", 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018. Reports obtained via Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) request conducted by The Children's Agenda in Rochester, NY.

## Home Visiting Services

**95%**

of eligible families in Westchester do not receive much-needed Home Visiting Services in their babies' first years



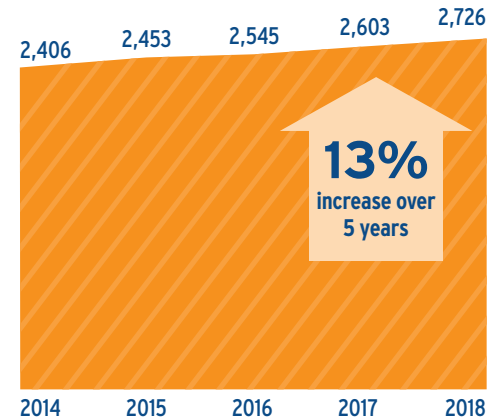
### New York's Home Visiting Programs

- Early Head Start\*
  - Healthy Families New York\*
  - Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters
  - Nurse Family Partnership\*
  - Parent-Child Home Program\*
  - Parents as Teachers\*
- \*Programs available in Westchester

Schuyler Center for Analysis and Advocacy, 2016. "Home is Where the Start Is". <http://scaany.org/policyareas/maternal-infant-and-early-childhood>

## Preschool Children Receiving Disability Services

Between 2014 and 2018, the number of preschool children diagnosed with disabilities increased from 2,406 to 2,726.



New York State Education Department. (Obtained through data request through Public Data Request Ticket #67017 via [datasupport@nysed.gov](mailto:datasupport@nysed.gov))

"When you look at them beginning school, ready to learn socially, emotionally, academically that's critical because you know if you don't come out of the box sound academically, then it's all uphill battle from that point on."

- Dr. Jim Bostic, Executive Director, Nepperhan Community Center, Co-Chair Yonkers My Brothers' Keeper

Hear more on the Groundtruthing Podcast, "Yonkers MBK Building Community Through Collaboration," Episode 2x1

## ADVOCACY & ACTION



Learn more about Early Childhood supports (including Home Visiting) in Westchester, in our report "Vision 0 to 3: Next Steps"



**VISION 0 TO 3 NEXT STEPS**

<https://wca4kids.org/issues/home-visiting/>

## ADVOCACY & ACTION



**You have the data, research and powerful stories...  
NOW TAKE ACTION FOR WESTCHESTER'S KIDS!**

- ✓ Choose an issue to help improve the lives of our children
- ✓ Reach out to your decision makers
- ✓ Exercise your power and VOTE

Studies show that when communities are more involved and vocal about an issue, it receives more attention from policy makers and gets results faster. Working together, we can help all Westchester kids thrive regardless of race or zip code.

### GET MORE INFORMATION:

**On elections and voting...**

📍 [wca4kids.org/voteforkids](http://wca4kids.org/voteforkids)

**On community engagement...**

📍 [wca4kids.org/communityengagement](http://wca4kids.org/communityengagement)

**SHOW UP, SPEAK UP AND TAKE ACTION!**

**“(Some people) have enough odds against them depending on their circumstances... People assume all is well in Westchester. So we can neglect them... or we can try to fund programs that will enrich their lives and lead them to opportunity... to build a successful life.”**  
-John Tolomer, President and CEO of The Westchester Bank

📻 Hear more on the Groundtruthing Podcast  
“Getting Westchester Youth: READI” Episode 2x4

### DATA BULLETIN LEGEND

- 📍 Additional resources can be found online
- 📻 Listen to more on WCA's Groundtruthing podcast

#### FIFTH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

This Data Bulletin was generously sponsored by Maris and Jesse Krasnow in support of Westchester's children.

Thank you to all of our supporters who made this Data Bulletin possible.

#### FOLLOW US @WCA4KIDS



Sign Up or Donate

📍 [wca4kids.org](http://wca4kids.org)

Tell us what you think about this Data Bulletin

📍 [bit.ly/wcadatabulletin2019](https://bit.ly/wcadatabulletin2019)

#### CREDITS

Project Lead: Limarie Cabrera

Editing & Design: Tara Framer, Tara Framer Design

Editorial Input & Review: Allison Lake, Jordana Lorenzo, Onya West

Project Support: Ilana Fleischner, Alexander Ingram, Josh Prywes

#### SPECIAL THANKS

Much thanks to our community partners for their assistance.

Special thanks to Pete Nabozny, of Children's Agenda, Rochester, for sharing and discussing his data work on Early Intervention.