Two years after the first COVID-19 cases were diagnosed in the United States, kids are back in school, more of them have health insurance, and life has begun to look a bit more “normal.” But that doesn’t mean the kids are alright.

Nearly 13 million children have contracted the disease, more than 241,000 have lost a caregiver. Our youngest children remain unvaccinated. And we have only just begun to consider COVID’s long-term effects on children.

The pandemic and its economic fallout have had an outsized impact on every aspect of our children’s health and well-being. The numbers below tell only part of that story. But they are a good place to start.

**PHYSICAL HEALTH**

Despite early misconceptions that children don’t get COVID, children account for 19% of all COVID-19 cases in the United States.

- **12.6+ million**: Number of children who have contracted COVID-19
- **114,730**: Number of children hospitalized with COVID
- **7,459**: Number of children who developed the serious condition known as multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MISC)
- **1,433**: Number of children who have died with COVID
- **13**: where COVID-19 ranks among the top 15 causes of death in children
- **19 million**: the number of U.S. children under 5, for whom there is still no vaccine

**EMOTIONAL HEALTH**

Our country’s children are in the throes of a full-blown mental health crisis.

- **31%**: Percentage increase in mental health-related emergency room visits by 12-17-year-olds in 2020
- **5**: where suicide ranks among the top 15 causes of death in children
- **0**: the number of states that meet the recommended ratio of one social worker for every 250 students
- **4,000+**: the number of students served by a single school psychologist in West Virginia, Missouri, Texas, Alaska, and Georgia.
- **241,000+**: the number of children grieving a caregiver who died of COVID-19
ECONOMIC STABILITY:

At the height of the pandemic in 2021, government programs in the American Rescue Plan cut child poverty by 36%.

- **3.7 million**: the number of children who slid back into poverty when improvements to the child tax credit expired
- **6.7 million**: number of children expected to lose health coverage when the Public Health Emergency ends
- **1-in-6**: the number of children who experienced food insecurity last year
- **22%**: percentage of households with children who are behind on rent

INEQUITY:

Black, Hispanic, Indigenous and other children of color are far more likely to contract COVID, be hospitalized, lose a caregiver to the disease, suffer economic consequences, and endure other pandemic fallout than their white counterparts.

- **65%**: percentage of children who lost a caregiver to COVID who belong to racial and ethnic minorities
- **2x**: The likelihood of Black or Hispanic children losing a caregiver to COVID, v. white children
- **4.5x**: The likelihood of American Indian/Alaska Native children losing a caregiver to COVID, v. white children
- **29%**: Percentage of Black renters with children who are behind on rent, v. 22% for all renters with children
- **3x**: the rate of food insecurity among Black and Hispanic households v. white households
- **70%**: the percentage of total MISC cases that occurred in children who are Black or Hispanic
- **3 million**: the number of marginalized K-12 students — those with disabilities, experiencing homelessness, in foster care or who are migrants — who stopped attending school

WHERE WE GO FROM HERE:

Emergency pandemic aid — improved tax credits, increased food benefits, economic impact payments, and other child-centered initiatives — achieved historic levels of well-being for children. These investments reversed more than a decade of decline in federal spending on children, helping lift nearly 4 million out of poverty and producing the largest year-to-year increase in the share of federal spending on kids since First Focus on Children began tracking 15 years ago.

We must capitalize on this progress. And propose long-term solutions to these long-term problems.

**Citations and links for all of the above available at: www.firstfocus.org/resources/fact-sheet/kids-and-covid-by-the-numbers**