



The Kid Angle

Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children

Don't abandon COVID's lost generation **September 22, 2022**

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President Biden suggested this week that the pandemic, as we know it, is over. Let medical professionals (and his surprised health advisers) argue about whether that's true. But there's one thing we do know: **The children who lost caregivers, suffered childhood COVID, have still not returned to school, and face other losses need our attention even more than they did before.**

To recap:

- More than **10 million children worldwide** have [lost a caregiver to COVID](#), updated figures show. In the **United States, about 250,000 children** have lost one or both parents
- **244 million children** around the world [remain out of school](#), 40% of them in sub-Saharan Africa
- **Only 30% of 10-year-olds** in low- and middle-income countries [can read a simple story](#), a 17% decline from before the pandemic.
- An estimated **7 million U.S. children** — disproportionately Black, Hispanic, Native and other children of color — are [poised to lose their health insurance](#) at end of the Public Health Emergency
- Roughly 70% of 12-17 year-olds in the U.S. have received [at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine](#), a number that drops **to 38% for 5-11 year-olds** and a dismal **8% for children between 6 months and 4 years old** — a potential catastrophe if the virus surges in the fall as it has for the last two years.

More than 300 people a day are [still dying from Covid-19](#) in the U.S., according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and [more than 200 children are being admitted to the hospital](#) with childhood COVID every week. But the virus' impact on children spans beyond their physical health to their mental, financial, emotional and overall long-term well-being.

[COVID has created more orphans](#), and created them faster, than the AIDS epidemic. In 2003, the United States launched the [President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief \(PEPFAR\)](#) to combat that disease and help those children, a commitment that has lasted through 10 Congresses and four presidents. [First Focus on Children recently joined more than three dozen organizations in urging similar steps to care for the children left behind by COVID-19.](#)

Our upcoming Children's Budget 2022 — to be released Oct. 6 — finds that the Biden Administration has invested a record share of federal spending on children at home and abroad. Much of this funding, however, came from pandemic emergency aid. The quip that the pandemic is over may have undermined the Administration's

continued quest for Congressional COVID funding (about \$22 billion). But it's clear that children's need for our support has only just begun.

Here's [a great piece from this week](#) outlining the struggles faced by children across South America. Have a look.

LETTER FROM ARGENTINA

Confronting Covid's Lost Generation

In South America, two years of shuttered schools for kids without computers or WiFi ended hopes and dreams for millions. Will they ever get them back?



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