



The Kid Angle

Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children

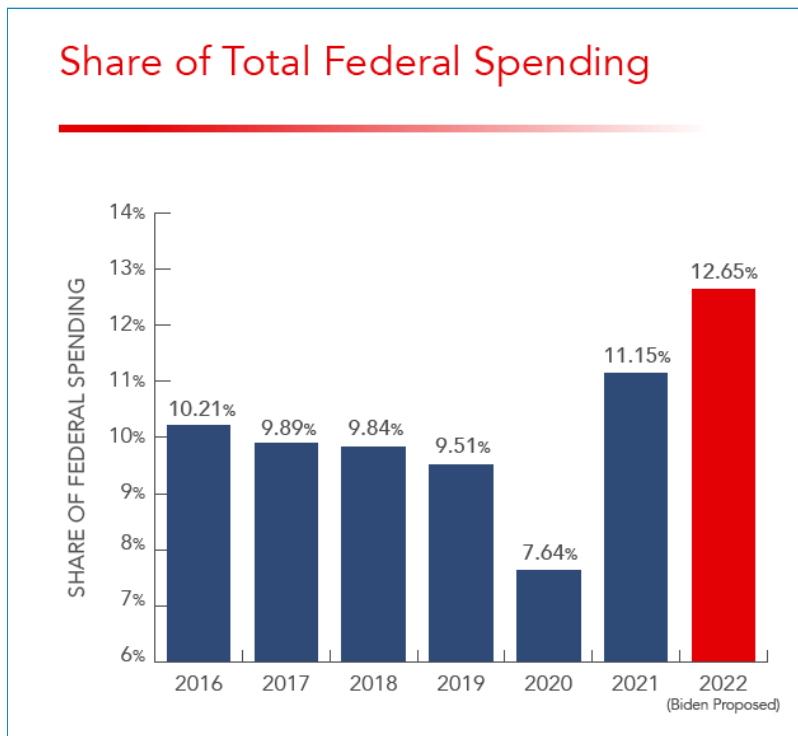
**COVID fueled largest year-to-year increase in share of spending on kids
November 4, 2021**

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2021 Children's Budget finds strong — but temporary — increase

Our [2021 Children's Budget](#), released this week, finds that COVID funding fueled the **largest year-to-year increase in the share of federal spending on kids** since we began tracking in 2006.

The share of federal spending on children rose to **11.2% in 2021, a 3.5 percentage point increase over 2020**. The historic rise comes after **four straight years in which the share of spending on children declined by 25%** to just 7.6%. Internationally, the United States invests just .08% — **less than one penny per federal dollar spent** — in children abroad.



It is important to note, however, that **much of this spending is temporary**. The pandemic and its economic fallout revealed **decades of deferred maintenance** on the systems that protect the health and well-being of our children. Massive investments in early childhood funding (133% increase), income supports, education, and food programs **merely stabilized our kids**. And yet, some in Congress are working to reverse even these gains. You'll find the [full report at this link](#) and some [key takeaways here](#).

[Health and Human Services Sec. Xavier Becerra rolled out the report at Wednesday's 2021 Children's Budget Summit](#), which also gathered House and Senate Champions for Children, and experts on children's issues. You can watch the entire summit [at this link](#).

***Fun Fact:** In a 2008 poll, voters told us that they thought government spending on kids was about 18%, but that it should be more like 30%. President Biden's FY 2022 budget — which requests the highest share of spending on children we have ever tracked — gives them just 12.7%.*

EVENTS

Covering All Children – The Path Forward: *Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2pmET:* Join this (virtual) Congressional briefing to examine the challenges that inhibit children's enrollment in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program and to explore solutions. Nearly 4.3 million children went without health insurance in 2020, according to census data, and children of color were hit hardest, with

9.5% of Hispanic children and 6% of Black children lacking health insurance.

[For more information, and to register, visit this link.](#)

Tax Credits and Transition-Age Youth: *Wednesday, Nov. 10, 3pmET:* Rep. Danny Davis (D-IL) co-hosts this First Focus briefing on how tax credits can soften the economic obstacles facing transition-age youth. Panelists will present recommendations on opportunities for Congress to invest in long-term solutions, such as expanding the Work Opportunity Tax Credit. Find more information and register [at this link.](#)



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