



The Kid Angle

Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children

Child poverty is a choice

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“A violence to our virtues.”

That’s what Cory Booker called child poverty and our acceptance of it.

A violence to our virtues.

The child poverty rate in the richest country in the world [more than doubled last year](#), courtesy of congressional choice. Lawmakers’ decisions have ensured that nearly 9 million children now live in abject poverty in this country. Millions more live in near poverty.

Of course, there is a way to fix this. Lawmakers including Sen. Booker [vowed yesterday to renew efforts to restore the improved tax policies](#) that lifted nearly 4 million children out of poverty in 2021. Some of the same lawmakers also [stepped up to save child care](#).

We are on a very slippery slope with our kids — New York Magazine actually called it a [“state of emergency.”](#) Children were the [only group to lose health insurance](#) in 2022, despite safeguards. More than [3 million are about to lose child care](#). As [First Focus on Children President Bruce Lesley told Time](#), ““As families are struggling, we’re now compounding that by making access to childcare harder and more unaffordable. There’s also the [Medicaid unwinding](#) that’s happening right now and so kids are getting kicked off of health care coverage.”

And still our investment in them continues to slide.

Next week, First Focus on Children will release our annual analysis of federal spending on children. Children’s Budget 2023 finds that most of the gains we made during the public health and economic emergency have receded. And that children are back where they started.

We’ve also begun documenting the benefits of investing in children at the [Child Investment Research Hub](#), a new database of reports, statistics, and research — including information by state — connecting investments in children to measurable outcomes in child well-being. The

Hub offers research on child development, employment outcomes, economic mobility, health and nutrition and other areas. [Find the hub at this link.](#)



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