



# *The Kid Angle*

*Kid-focused news from First Focus on Children*

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## **New report finds record investment in children in FY 2022**

**October 6, 2022**

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Senate Finance Chair Ron Wyden today emphasized the importance of investing in our nation's kids during [First Focus on Children's annual Children's Budget Summit](#).

"If children are able to grow up in a healthy, safe, and stable environment, they're going to thrive," he told the online summit of more than 300 advocates, lawmakers and media. "And our state and country thrive, too." The Oregon Democrat emphasized the need to address shortfalls in youth mental health care, in particular, saying: "America has to live up to the principle that young people should be able to get mental health care where they need it and when they need it."

The remarks came as First Focus on Children released its [Children's Budget 2022](#), which finds that federal spending on children broke records during the pandemic, but that Congress is quickly abandoning that commitment. The new report shows **the share of federal spending on children climbed to an historic 11.98% of the U.S. budget in FY 2022, producing remarkable declines in child poverty, hunger and the rate of children without health insurance.**

**Office of Management and Budget Director Shalanda Young** also joined the event and **acknowledged the critical need to track the country's investment in children.** "The children's book really brings it home for policymakers and the Administration," Young said in a recorded conversation with First Focus on Children President Bruce Lesley. "This is something that has bipartisan support...The budget book, having it in one place, really does give people specifics, concrete things that they can do to put their money where their mouth is."

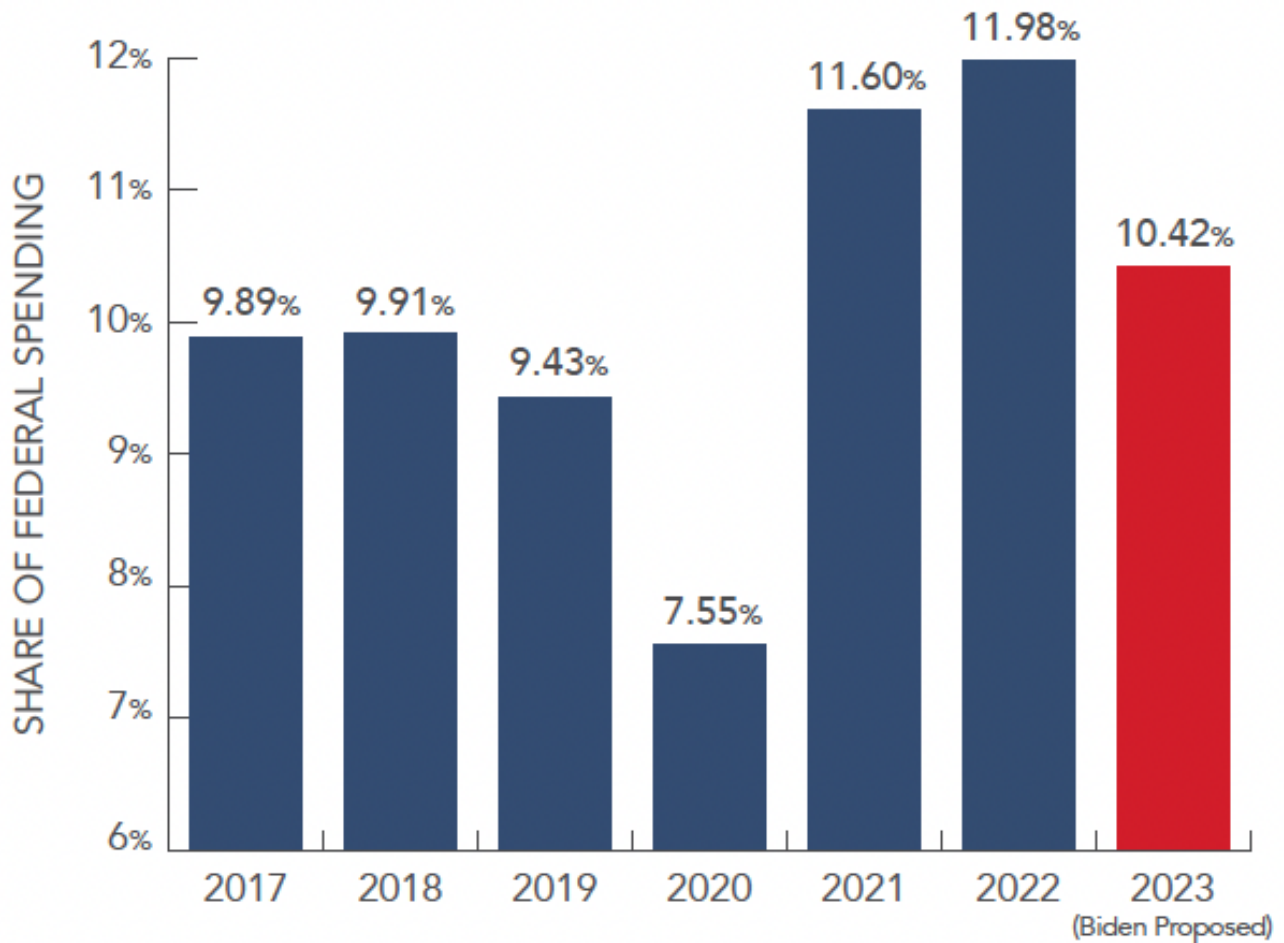
[The recorded event can be found here.](#)

**Children's Budget 2022 finds that the share of U.S. domestic and international spending on children rose 21% over the last five years, making up 11.98% of all federal spending in FY 2022 (11.88% for domestic, 0.10% for international).** This share stands in stark contrast to pre-pandemic investments when the total share of federal spending on children was only 7.55% of the federal budget. Congress, however, has begun backing off these investments, with inflation-adjusted dollars for children dropping nearly 17% between FY 2021 and FY 2022.

The report tracks federal spending in roughly 250 domestic and international programs. This year for the first time we began to track outlays that protect children from the impact of climate change, air pollution, toxic substances, pesticides and other areas of environmental health.

[Full report can be found here.](#)

# Children's Combined Share (Domestic and International) of Total Spending



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